■ LIFESTYLE / C1

Pregnancy inspires Monique now on top of int'l fashion

■ METRO / A23

Billboard on Edsa knocks out MRT; losses reach P4M

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A-1

Fil-Aussie MiG Ayesa so grateful to all Pinoys around world

■ WORLD / A13

Distressed US jet makes dramatic but safe emergency landing

JARQUE

US deports Jarque, wife

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

RETIRED BRIG. GEN. RAYmundo Jarque and his wife Xenia were refused entry and detained by US immigration officials on Tuesday on arrival at the Dal-

US DEPORTS/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gee, thanks, Uncle Sam; lucky pols mighty pleased

By Juliet L. Javellana

GEE, THANKS.

The US Embassy's profiling of the Philippines' "up and coming political leaders" has pleased some of the senators list-

GEE, THANKS/ A21

BAKA NAMBOBOLA LANG YAN!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, September 23, 2005 ★★ 76 pages / 9 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 287 P18

website: www.inq7.net

GMA: Tough gets going

'Maximum tolerance policy abused'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Christine Avendaño

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC zone—"I'm tired of chasing the bully around the schoolyard," President Macapagal-Arroyo declared yesterday.

Talking tough after escaping an impeachment attempt in Congress two weeks ago, the President offered to reconcile with her opponents but warned the rule of law would bear down on those who would seek to unseat her.

Later in a statement, Ms Arroyo said while the government respected the rights of the people to assemble and to seek redress of grievances, these constitutional rights were "not absolute."

"They can only be exercised in a peaceful manner and always in consideration of the welfare of the majority of our people," the President said.

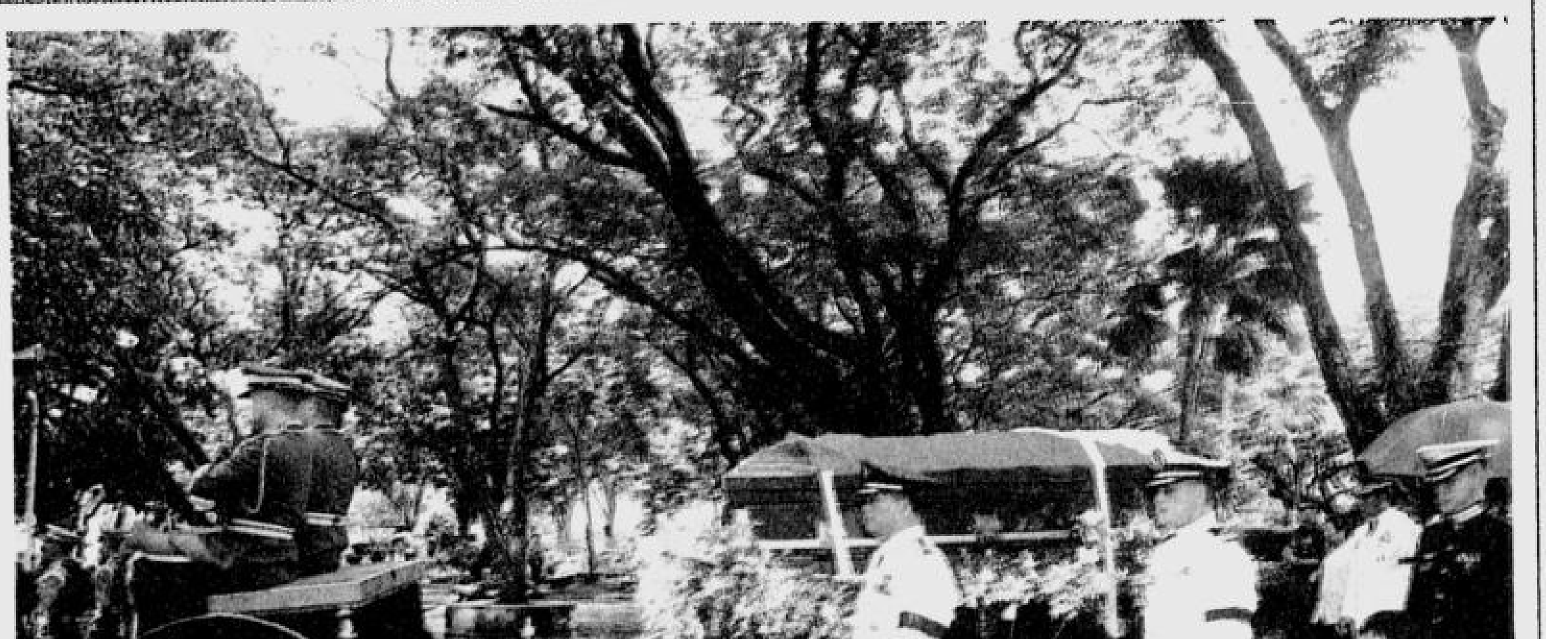
She said that commuters, pedestrians, students and the business sector had complained about the disruption of business, especially in Makati, during protest rallies.

"We cannot let this continue," Ms Arroyo said. "Our policy of maximum tolerance has been abused, these rights have become licentious, to the detriment of the peace and order and the welfare of the greater majority."

"This government will not tolerate activities that hurt the peo-

GMA/ A21

HERO'S FAREWELL FOR HAYDEE YORAC


PHOTOS BY REM ZAMORA

WHERE the ancient acacia and fire trees soar highest to the heavens, there now lie the mortal remains of Haydee Yorac. At the Libingan ng mga Bayani, her remains are borne on a caisson escorted by the Security and Escort Battalion of the Philippine Army. (At left) Accidentally, Haydee's photo falls after the funeral and its glass frame shatters but Josefa Yorac hangs on to the memories and the flag that draped her daughter's casket. *(Story on Page A2.)*

US report details coup plotters' July meet

By Norman Bordadora

SPECIAL REPORT

THE US EMBASSY IN MANILA "quietly" put contingency plans in place when it received inside information that a plot against President Macapagal-Arroyo was discussed at a meeting in July of 20 to 30 active military officers.

In an "informal assessment" prepared by a "senior USG (US government) policymaker" dated July 30, the embassy detailed the conduct of the meeting attended mostly by Filipino Army and Navy officers based in Metro Manila.

It said the "initial meeting" was chaired by a former member of the Young Officers Union. But the name of the officer and those of the other officers present were blacked out in the document, which was obtained by the INQUIRER from a source who requested anonymity.

The report also said a veteran US diplomat had privately expressed concern about the consequences if Ms Arroyo were seriously challenged, "noting she would not go gracefully."

"USG cannot fully discount the possibility of a near-term attempt to oust Arroyo but sees no chance of success in the absence of a visible opposition politician who would face the many challenges confronting the country," the three-page report said.

"We have nonetheless quietly readied our task force capabilities, aided also by a recent crisis management exercise," it said, adding:

"In July 2003, we also saw no

US REPORT/ A21

Survey says more Filipinos going hungry

AS THE COUNTRY FOLLOWED the "Hello Garci" scandal, the impeachment debates, the series of hefty oil price increases, and lately the news of Imelda Marcos' jewels finally going into auction, an alarming number of Filipinos saw all these go by on empty stomachs.

A survey by the Social Weather Stations from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 showed that 15.5 percent of households nationwide consid-

SURVEY / A7

Gonzales says Senate set him up

By DJ Yap, TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

THE BAD VIBES CAME THE MOMENT he stepped into the Ambrosio Padilla Room in the Senate.

There was the feisty Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, seated on an elevated platform. Flanking Arroyo were other senators, all glaring at him. He was seated at a lower level, looking up at them.

It immediately dawned on National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales that he was being prosecuted.

Gonzales recounted to a political supporter, Beth Floralde, his three-hour ordeal before the committee on Wednesday.

"The moment he entered the hearing room, he already sensed something was wrong," said Floralde, a leader of Aksyon Sambayanan, narrating what Gonzales told her during her visit. "He felt that it was a tribunal."

The placing of the tables and chairs further unnerved Gonzales.

GONZALES/ A21

DAR to let ax fall on Luisita next week

By Blanche S. Rivera

A PAY SLIP SHOWING LESS than P10 in net wages, the testimonies of farmers who signed a contract they could not understand, reports of burned sugarcane fields and the absence of dividends for the past 15 years were among the pieces of evidence reviewed by the Department of Agrarian Reform in the Hacienda Luisita case.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman said the DAR had already picked an option to resolve the controversial case involving the landholdings owned by the Cojuangcos, the family of former President Corazon C. Aquino.

Pangandaman said the DAR would announce its "final" decision on the Luisita case on Monday or Tuesday. "We're almost there," he said in an interview following a closed-door meeting of DAR officials Tuesday.

"We have picked an option ... (after) the recommendations were presented to us and the views of the task force and legal team were heard, but I need to review it. We have to be very careful about this," he said.

DAR / A7

1.3M Americans ordered to flee from monster storm

GALVESTON, TEXAS—MORE than a million people fled Texas and Louisiana as Hurricane Rita swirled toward the Gulf Coast on Thursday with 280-kph winds in what forecasters said could be the strongest hurricane on record to ever hit Texas.

Crude oil prices climbed toward $68 a barrel on Thursday as Rita raised fears it would hit key production facilities along the US Gulf Coast that were largely untouched by Hurricane Katrina's onslaught three weeks ago.

The Category 5 hurricane, the highest on the scale, with 282-kph winds was expected to strike Texas, the heart of US oil production, on Saturday. More than 1.3 million people in Texas and Louisiana—including hundreds of oil workers—were ordered to evacuate.

"No question, prices are driven by Hurricane Rita," said Energyintel analyst Sam Dale in Singapore. "The fuse is that it will force refinery closures, and if these facilities close it is going to reduce inventories."

Much of Texas and Louisiana—including already-battered New Orleans, low-lying parts of Houston and Galveston—were

1.3M AMERICANS/ A5

AP

RACING AGAINST TIME and Rita, evacuees head for Houston, Texas.

Second FRONT PAGE
E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Ilocos Norte and Sur, Batanes, Cagayan, Abra, Kalinga and Apayao will be stormy with rough seas. The rest of N. Luzon will have rains, gusty winds and rough seas. W. Visayas and the rest of Luzon will be cloudy with rains and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rains and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRILL BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/09/23/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

6 more named to Charter body

MALACAÑANG HAS ADDED DAVAO CITY MAYor Rodolfo Duterte and five others to the list of appointments to the consultative commission it has created to proposals for the amendment of the Constitution.

This brings to 39 the members of the commission appointed so far, 11 shy of the 50 that is supposed to make up the body.

The 39 are to meet informally today with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita who heads the Cabinet screening committee that made the recommendations for the appointments.

Aside from Duterte, the new appointments to the commission are: Br. Rolando Dizon FSC, director at large of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines; Calbayog City Mayor Mel Senen Sarmiento, secretary general of the League of Cities of the Philippines; lawyer Rita Linda Jimeno, president of the Philippine Bar Association; Dr. Emily Marohombsar, member of the government peace panel negotiating with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and former congressman Sergio Apostol.

Study group

Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao described the consultative commission, created by executive order to study proposed constitutional amendments, as a study group and advisory body that will support Congress in its work of amending the Constitution.

The Palace announced the other day the appointment of an initial 33 commission members composed of business leaders, constitutional experts, academics, incumbent and ex-officials and newspaper columnists.

But House Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin yesterday expressed dismay over the initial list of 33, noting that not a single Muslim Filipino, whether politician, professional or scholar was included "to represent the voices and aspirations of the Muslim Filipinos in this country."

"Is this again a case of intentional lapse?" said the Basilan representative.

Rep. Mujiv Hataman, of the Anak Mindanao party-list group, noted the President's failure to consider a representative of the indigenous peoples as well.

"It only (showed) that Muslims and indigenous people are not her concern and priority," Hataman said.

He also claimed that the initial membership was composed mostly of members who come from Luzon.

"(The list) only strengthened the Manila-imperialist thinking of our national leaders," he said.

Opposition Rep. Jacinto Paras said the constitutional commission was "useless" as its recommendations could easily be overturned by the House of Representatives.

"They put this out to make it palatable to the public. But at the end of the day, we can easily scrap (its recommendations)," he told a forum in Manila.

Palace influence

Party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño said the commission was Malacañang's way of influencing Charter change, noting that with administration allies outnumbering the minority in Congress, anything the commission proposes would likely be supported by majority of legislators.

But Dean Froilan Bacungan, governor of the Philippine Constitution Association, pointed out that recommendatory bodies have always played a part in the drafting of earlier Charters.

He said that during the drafting of the 1987 Constitution, a group from the University of the Philippines College of Law had prepared documents containing the recommendations.

"Some parts of the 1987 Constitution were taken from that," he said.

Similarly during the drafting of the 1973 Constitution, another group from UP prepared a book containing suggestions about what should be done in amending the Charter, Bacungan said. *Christine Avendaño, Leila Salaverria and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'Words not enough to honor Haydee'

By Fe B. Zamora and Tarra V. Quismundo

BECAUSE WORDS WILL NEVer be enough to honor Haydee Yorac, her friends and admirers Wednesday announced plans for the Haydee Yorac Memorial Awards to be given to young Filipinos who follow her path of "integrity, fearlessness and the cause of justice."

"There are so few people of your ilk. You are truly a treasure that we cannot allow to simply slip away, but must make sure that you live not only in our hearts but also in the hearts of generations to come," said Prof. Solita Monsod in her eulogy delivered Wednesday night.

Monsod kicked off the move to perpetuate Yorac's memory by donating the seed money for the Haydee Yorac Memorial Awards.

"It is not enough to honor you with words. We must also honor you in deed," said Monsod, urging others, including University of the Philippines alumni and staff to contribute to the memorial in Yorac's honor.

For more than an hour Wednesday, colleagues, friends and former students of Yorac at the UP College of Law paid tribute to an "intellectual giant, a woman with an indomitable spirit and a beautiful soul."

Yorac's remains were transferred Wednesday afternoon from the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati City,

to the International Center at the UP for a final farewell from her alma mater.

"Are you embarrassed, Haydee? Are you rolling your eyes?" said Monsod, reminding everyone that Yorac, in life, was never comfortable with praise and had even enjoyed poking fun at herself.

Yesterday at noon, Yorac was laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani at Fort Bonifacio beneath a canopy of decades-old acacia and fire trees.

Yorac passed away on Sept. 13 in Chicago, Illinois, where she had been undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer.

In solemn rites meant only for the nation's outstanding servants, the former chair of the Commission on Elections and the Presidential Commission on Good Government was brought to her final resting place by some 200 relatives, friends, colleagues and others whom she had touched throughout her 64 years.

"We would like to thank everybody who shared their love for Haydee. And we are grateful for the honor given to our sister, and we hope that everything that she did would be a fine example for other people to follow," said Yorac's only brother, Jose, the sixth in a brood of seven of which Haydee was the eldest.

Yorac was given a hero's burial in the dignitaries section of the state cemetery, in a plot a few steps away from the graves of Blas Ople and Arturo Tolentino.

She was buried a day after the 33rd anniversary of the declaration of martial law, a time Yorac was jailed for political activism.

Decades later, she would give back to the nation, as PCGG chair, billions of pesos in alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies.

Among those present at the funeral were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla, Sen. Joker Arroyo and Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales.

A 21-gun salute marked the moment Yorac's coffin was lowered into the ground at 11:50 a.m.

ELECTRIC SERVICE IN THESE AREAS WILL BE MOMENTARILY INTERRUPTED FOR FACILITIES UPGRADING AND OTHER LINE WORK.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

MERALCO

POSTED ONLINE AT THE MERALCO WEBSITE, www.meralco.com.ph

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

CAVITE (DASMARIÑAS AND GEN. TRIAS)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30PM AND 4:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 38XZ

Portion of Governor Drive from near Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to near Tierra Nevada Access Road including Cityland Greenbreeze Subd., Bo. Lankaan in Dasmariñas. Magno Gonzales, Sitio de Fuego and Monterey Farms in Gen. Trias.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 4:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 38XZ

Portion of Governor Drive from near Tierra Nevada Access Road to near Gen. Trias – Trece Martirez City boundary including Gen. Trias - Amadeo Road, ADC Ready Mix, Roos Metal Works, Massive Ready Mixed Concrete, Bgy. Manggahan, Metro South Subd. and Sitio Santusan in Gen. Trias.

REASON: Installation of new line switch (LBS 42RS15) along Gen. Trias – Amadeo Road in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

BULACAN (NORZAGARAY AND SAN JOSE DEL MONTE)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS SAPANG PALAY 32YO, 33YO AND 34YO

Mardeka Marble, Towerville, City Homes Builders, Igay Cockpit, Sapang Palay National High School, Bgys. Aniban, Paltoc, San Mateo, Sto. Cristo, San Pedro, Sabitang Kampana, Dulong Bayan and Sitio Gulod in San Jose del Monte.

Minuyan Marble, Marlane Homes, Guillen Marble, Sanctuario de Paz Memorial Park, Bgys. Bigte, Tigbe, Minuyan and Bitungol in Norzagaray.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT SAN JOSE 41SJ – ANGAT 42AG

Republic Aggregates Compound in Bgy. Hulo.

REASON: Various Transco, maintenance work along Dasmariñas – Abubot - Rosario 115 kV transmission line.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27-28, 2005

LAGUNA (LOS BAÑOS AND BAY)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:15PM (TUE., 09/27/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45AM AND 5:00AM (WED., 09/28/05) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT LOS BAÑOS 33WT

Along Bangkal – Mayondon Road from Los Baños – Bay National Road to and including Bgys. Mayondon and Bayog.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 09/27/05) AND 5:00AM (WED., 09/28/05) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS LOS BAÑOS 32WT AND 34WT

Portion of Los Baños – Bay National Road from Lopez Ave. to and including the whole town of Bay

Portion of Lopez Ave. from Los Baños – Bay National Road to Silangan Groove including Jollibee - Los Baños, Trace Computer College, Jasland, Los Baños High School, Los Baños General Hospital, Agapita Complex, Umali Subd., De Marces Village and Sta. Fe Subd. in Bgys. Batong Malake and San Antonio.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco Los Baños substation

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

BULACAN (ANGAT AND BUSTOS)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45AM AND 5:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 36YT AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIWAG 313YW

Along Fernando Ave., Donacion and Sulugan Sts. from Meralco - Angat substation to and including Bgys. Bunga Menor, Bonga Mayor, Tibagan in Bustos; Bgys. Niugan, Tayang - Tayang, Tabok, Tugatog, Sabang, Binagbag, Sta. Lucia, Banaban, San Roque, Laog, Poblacion and Sta. Cruz in Angat.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco Angat substation.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2005

MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (THU., 09/29/05)– PORTION OF CIRCUIT ROCKWELL 444VV

Portion of H. V. Dela Costa St. from near Valero St. to and including Lakandula St., Makati Sports Club, Manulife Center, Y – Tower II Bldg., Century Tower, Island Plaza Bldg., Le Triomphe Bldg., Splendido Gardens, Don Chua Lamko Bldg. and Telecom Plaza.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (THU., 09/29/05) AND 6:30AM (FRI., 09/30/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS KAMAGONG 42VK; AND ROCKWELL 444VV

Portion of L. P. Leviste and San Agustin Sts. from near H. V. Dela Costa St. to and including LPL Plaza, Valero Tower Condominium, Ponte – Salcedo Condominium, Easton Place Condominium, PCCI Center, PDCP Bank Center, LPL Center, Makati Executive Center Bldg., Peak Tower, Chatham House Condominium, Diner's Club Center, Nobel Plaza, Heart Tower Condominium, Philips House, Asian Center for Christian Ministries and Avignon Tower.

BETWEEN 6:00AM AND 6:30AM (FRI., 09/30/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT KAMAGONG 42VK

Portion of Ayala Ave. from V. A. Rufino St. to and including Philam Life Tower, Insular Life Bldg., Robinson's Summit Center, Prudential Bank Bldg., PB Comm Tower, Herrera Tower and Antel Center 2000 in Salcedo Village.

REASON: Line construction work and installation of new line switches in preparation for Meralco Legaspi Substation along San Agustin and V. A. Rufino Sts. in Salcedo Village, Makati City.

FRIDAY TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 1, 2005

BULACAN (MARILAO AND MEYCAUAYAN)

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (FRI., 09/30/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (SAT., 10/01/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 47YE

Portion of McArthur Highway from Bgy. Saluysoy to and including STI College - Meycauayan, Rizal Commercial Banking, St. Mary's College of Meycauayan and Maryville Subd. in Meycauayan

BETWEEN 11:00PM (FRI., 09/30/05) AND 5:00AM (SAT., 10/01/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 47YE

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco - Bocaue substation to and including St. Martin Subd., Villa Monte Verde Subd., Roxville Subd., Marilao Market, Marilao Parish Church, St. Michael Hospital, Constantino Park Subd., Maria Ramos Village, Town and Country North Executive Village, Lolomboy Highschool, Bgys. Saluysoy, Abangan and Lolomboy in Marilao.

REASON: Relocation of facilities due to DPWH road widening project along McArthur Highway in Marilao, Bulacan.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2005

BATANGAS (STO. TOMAS)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS FPIP 410WW AND 416WW

Portion of Roads 1, 2 and 3 including Philip Morris Mfg. Compound, Tann Phils., Ibiden Phils., First Electro Dynamics Corp., Nissin Precision Phils., Nikkoshi Phils., Photocircuits Phils., Fujitsu Computer Products, Isola Asia, Fort Wayne Wire Die, SB Flex Phils., Nittetsu Micrometal Corp., Fujielastomers Manila, Komyo Phil. Logistic Service, Claymount Assemblies Phils. Bigmate Phils., Shi Mfg. & Services, Usui Metals Phils., Shing Hung Plastics, Hugle Electronics, Aikawa Phils., Microtel Inns and Suites and Ippon Yari Ramen House in First Philippine Industrial Park.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco FPIP substation

CAVITE

BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 7:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:45PM AND 5:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ROSARIO 42RS AND 43RS, ABUBOT 37XZ, 38XZ AND 39XZ AND CAVITE 12ZD, 13ZD, 16ZD AND 19ZD

The whole of Cavite City, Rosario and Novelata.

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from near Imus-Dasmariñas boundary to near Meralco-Pala-Pala substation including Arcontica Subd Resort, Crescent Hills Village, Villa Remedios, Southfield Subd., Villa Luisa Homes, portion of Don Placido Campo Drive, Magsaysay Institute of Shipping, Via Verde Village, Cantimbuhan Rice Mill, St. Charbel South, Cityland Greenbreeze Subd Bo. Lankaan, Magno Gonzales, Sitio de Fuego in Dasmariñas; Monterey Farms, Berlite Industries, Gen. Trias-Amadeo Road, ADC Ready Mix, Bgy. Manggahan, Metro South Subd. and Sitio Santusan in Gen. Trias.

Along Salitran Road including Sunnycrest Village, Summerwind Village, Summer Meadow Subd., South Meridian Homes, Garden Grove 1-4, Andreaville Executive Homes, TUP-Dasmariñas, The Orchard Golf and Country Club and Raintree Homes in Dasmariñas.

Portion of Molino Road from Salitran Road to near Queen's Row Road including San Miguel I, Georgetown Heights Subd., St. Mary Homes, Springville West, Molino 3, Annaville Subd. and Progressive Village 5 in Bacoor.

Portion of Gov. D. Mangubat Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to Congressional South Road including University Medical Center, Jopauen Realty, Student Village, Bgy. Burol, Manuela Village, Summerwind IV and Southcrest Village in Dasmariñas

Along Congressional South Road including Burol I and II, Areas C and H, Sta. Fe, Clusters B and D, San Francisco, Citihomes, Bo. San Mateo, Bo. Pag-asa, Victoria Reyes Props., Acacia Homes, San Andres 2 and San Roque in Dasmariñas.

BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 5:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TANZA 38ZW

Bo. Bacao in Rosario.

REASON: TransCo maintenance work along Dasmariñas – Abubot – Rosario 115 kV transmission lines.

MANILA (STA. MESA)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 45F AND PANDACAN 17M

Portion of Railroad Track from Meralco – Pandacan substation along Cordillera St. to Ramon Magsaysay Blvd. including Sisters of Mary Boystown and Girlstown, Teresa and Anonas Sts.

Portion of Road 9, Anonas and Valencia Sts. from Petrophil - Sta. Mesa Terminal to Pureza St. including Road 12, Hippodromo Sts., Polytechnic University of the Philippines, Seiki Industries and Metropolitan Shipping.

Portion Ramon Magsaysay Blvd. and Altura St. from Hippodromo St. to near Vigan St.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Railroad Track in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule.

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Taxman charges ex-singer; Regine not yet off the hook

By Cynthia D. Balana and Armand Nocum

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue charged bus operator and former singer Claire de la Fuente and husband Moises de Guzman with tax evasion before the Department of Justice yesterday, claiming the couple failed to pay taxes for two years amounting to P85.84 million.

De la Fuente, Clarita de Guzman in real life, is the vice president/treasurer of Philippine Corinthian Liner Corp. where her husband is president.

Corinthian is engaged in transport and shuttle service, hauling, vulcanizing, auto repair, auto-building, and in the manufacture and fabrication of chassis body and other auto parts accessories.

Investigation showed that Corinthian did not pay income tax totaling P78.48 million and percentage tax amounting to P7.35 million from 2002 to 2004 based on the company's own declaration in the financial statement it submitted to the Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board.

The BIR said the tax liabilities could still increase after the completion of an ongoing tax assessment.

Also yesterday, BIR and DOJ officials said singer-actress Regine Velasquez had paid more than P7 million in tax arrears, but this only served to strengthen the tax evasion case against her.

DOJ officials said yesterday that while the payment had extinguished the civil liability of the actress, it could not save her from criminal liability for tax evasion.

"It will boost our case because we don't have to prove anymore that there is a tax liability or the amount of tax involved because she already admitted it when she paid the P7 million," said lawyer Estela Valdez-Sales, assistant commissioner for the BIR's inspection service.

She said all that the BIR had "to prove now is the criminal liability" of Velasquez, who could face up to 10 years imprisonment if found guilty of violating the country's tax revenue code.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño echoed the view of Sales. "On the part of the prosecution, payment is admission of non-payment of the taxes due the government," he said.

Gov't sees peace pact with MILF next year

THE GOVERNMENT ANnounced yesterday it expects to sign a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) early next year but a rebel spokesperson, while agreeing this was possible, cautioned against any more premature and unilateral announcements of any breakthroughs.

Government troops and the MILF have been observing a ceasefire in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao for the last two years while conducting peace talks in Malaysia.

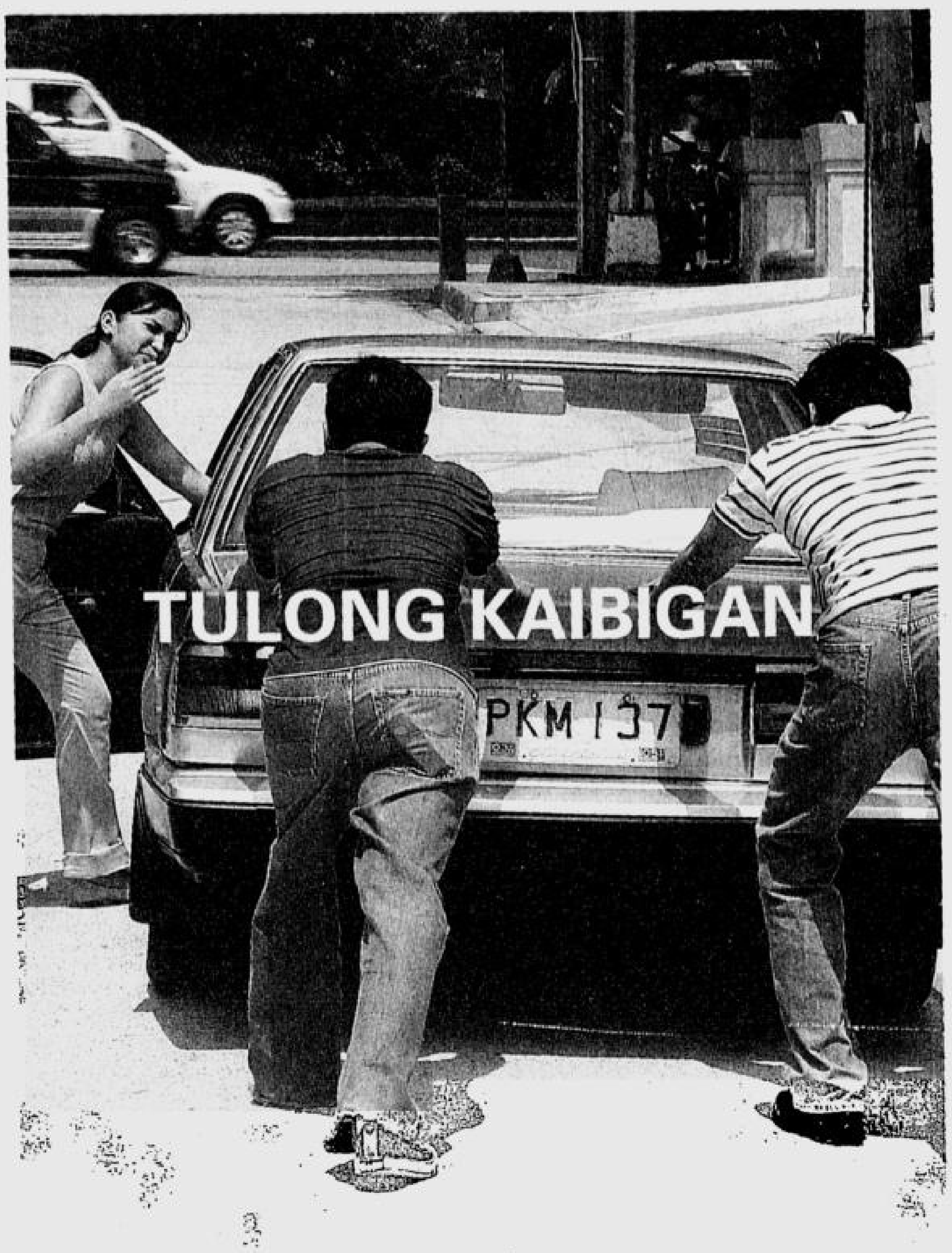
After their latest round of talks in Kuala Lumpur last week, the two sides announced they had reached a "consensus" on the question of the Muslim's ancestral domain but provided no details. This issue, reportedly the last major hurdle, involves compensation for ancestral lands the Muslims have lost to Christian and other settlers from elsewhere in the country over the years.

In a statement issued by Malacañang yesterday, chief government negotiator Silvestre Afable said an agreement on this issue would probably be concluded by December this year. Following this, the final stage of the talks would lay out the mechanics of "demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration of combatants into the mainstream of society," he added.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu welcomed the statement, saying it showed the government's sincerity. But he cautioned against prematurely announcing any breakthroughs.

"The talks are done in increments. The ancestral domain issue is the last strand that we have to settle, but we can't hastily make a conclusion that a peace deal will be signed by early next year," Kabalu told AFP.

"This is a negotiation process. Any announcement of a decision must emanate from both parties," he stressed. *AFP with a report from Dona Pazzibugan*



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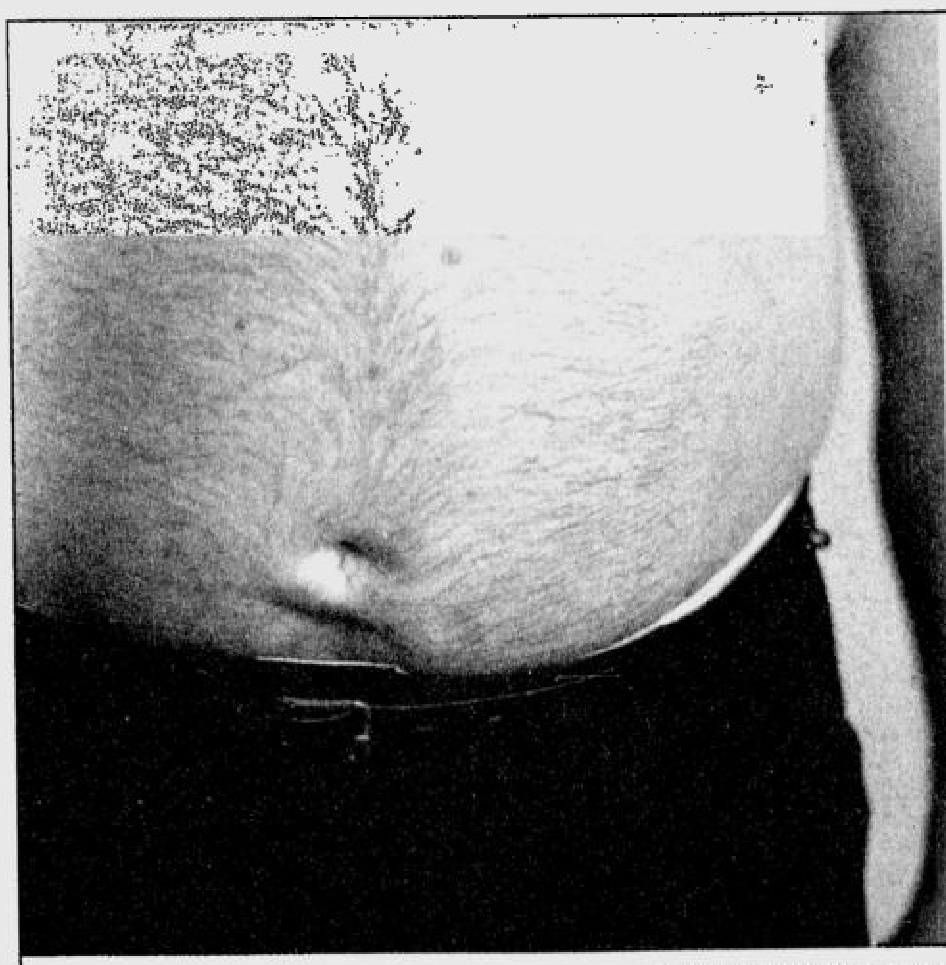

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Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 21 ISSUE, the caption of a front page photo—"The grandeur that was"—misstated the cost of the Marcos bust. The amount of P1 billion included not only the cost of the bust itself but also that of the entire complex where the bust is situated which includes a golf course, clubhouse swimming pool and tennis courts.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, the banner story of the Second Front Page on Page A2—"Palace names 33 Concom members"—misstated the name of the study and advisory group that was created to help Congress in amending the Constitution. The advisory group is called the Consultative Commission—not Constitutional Commission.

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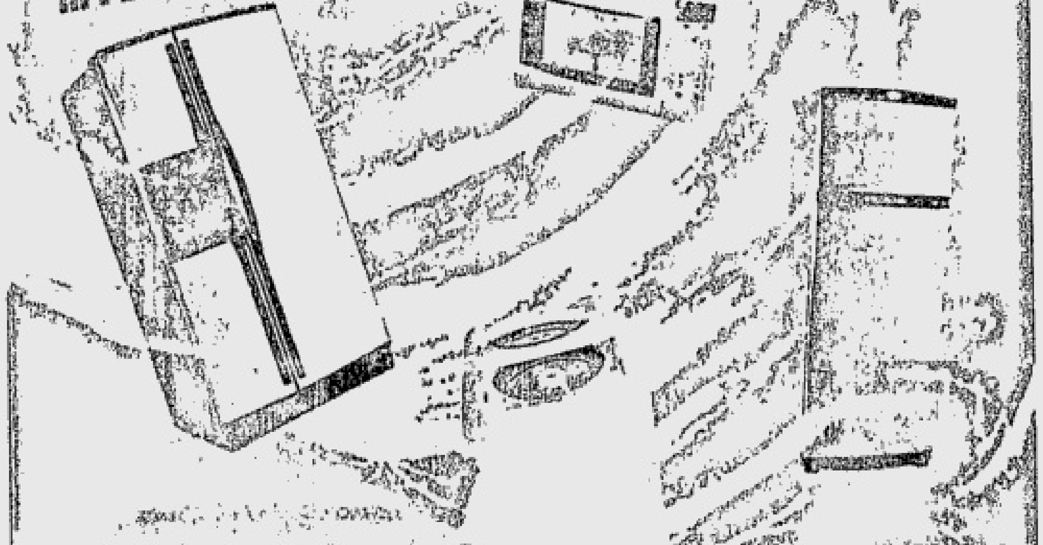

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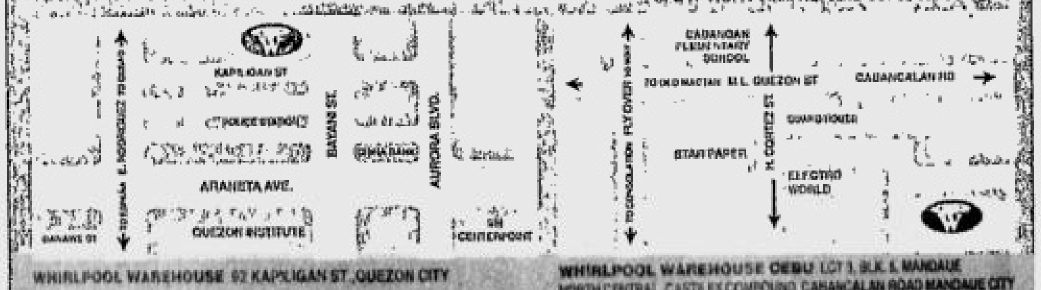

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1.3M Americans ordered to flee from monster storm

From page A1

under mandatory evacuation orders as Rita—now a dangerous Category 5—drew energy from balmy gulf waters.

"It's not worth staying here," said Celia Martinez as she and several relatives finished packing up their homes and pets to leave Galveston. "Life is more important than things."

New Orleans also braced for the possibility that the storm could swamp the misery-stricken city all over again.

Only three Category 5 hurricanes are known to have hit the US mainland—most recently, Andrew, which smashed South Florida in 1992.

Lessons from Katrina

Hundreds of buses were dispatched Wednesday to evacuate the poor and move out hospital and nursing home patients, and truckloads of water, ice and ready-made meals, and rescue and medical teams were on standby in an effort to show the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina.

"We hope and pray that Hurricane Rita will not be a devastating storm, but we got to be ready for the worst," President George W. Bush said in Washington.

Early Thursday, Rita was centered about 870 km east-southeast of Galveston and was moving west near 14 kph. Forecasters predicted it would come ashore along the central Texas coast between Galveston and Corpus Christi.

Hurricane-force winds extended up to 113 km from the center of the storm, and even a slight rightward turn could prove devastating to the fractured levees protecting New Orleans.

The US mainland has never been hit by both a Category 4 and a Category 5 in the same season. Katrina at one point became a Category 5 storm, but weakened slightly to a Category 4 just before coming ashore.

In the Galveston-Houston-Corpus Christi area, about 1.3 million people were under orders to get out, in addition to 20,000 or more along the Louisiana coast. Special attention was given to hospitals and nursing homes, three weeks after scores of sick and elderly patients in the New Orleans area drowned in Katrina's floodwaters or died in the stifling heat while waiting to be rescued.

Ghost town

Galveston was a virtual ghost town on Thursday. The city's lone hospital was evacuated, along with residents of a six-story retirement home.

The coastal city of 58,000 people on an island 2.5 meters above sea level was nearly wiped off the map in 1900 when an unnamed hurricane killed between 6,000 and 12,000. It remains the nation's worst natural disaster.

City Manager Steve LeBlanc said the storm surge could reach 15 meters. Galveston is protected by a seawall that is only 5 meters tall. "Not a good picture for us," LeBlanc said.

In Houston, Texas' largest city and home to the highest concentration of Katrina refugees, geography makes evacuation particularly tricky. While many hurricane-prone cities are right on the coast, Houston is 100 km inland, so a coastal suburban area of 2 million people must evacuate through a metropolitan area of 4 million people where the highways often are clogged.

Galveston Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas said buses used to take people and their pets off the island were running in short supply on Wednesday and warned that stragglers could be left to fend for themselves.

Officials in Corpus Christi were also preparing to load up about 100 buses on Thursday morning to evacuate people who have no other way to get out.

Threat to oil facilites

Texas, which produces more than 25 percent of total US crude, is bracing for similar havoc from Rita.

Eighteen of its 26 refineries, with a combined distillation capacity of 4 million barrels daily, are located near the Gulf of Mexico. Nine of those facilities, representing 12 percent of US refinery capacity have shut down, Dow Jones Newswires reported.

"Some of those refineries in Texas, they're at sea level. It's a table top, it floods very easily," said Ed Silliere, vice president of risk management at Energy Merchant LLC in New York.

The US Minerals Management Service said Wednesday that 469 platforms in the Gulf were unstaffed, up sharply from 136 on Tuesday. More than 73 percent of oil production in the region was blocked, up from 58 percent on Tuesday.

Light sweet crude for November rose 85 cents to US$67.65 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Nymex oil prices are around 40 percent higher than a year ago, though still below the intraday record of $70.85 on Aug. 30 when Katrina made landfall in Louisiana, damaging and shutting down numerous oil refineries and other facilities.

Death toll

The death toll from Katrina passed the 1,000 mark on Wednesday in five Gulf Coast states. The body count in Louisiana alone was put at nearly 800, most found in the receding floodwaters of New Orleans.

Rita is the 17th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, making this the fourth-busiest season since record-keeping started in 1851. The record is 21 tropical storms in 1933. The hurricane season is not over until Nov. 30.

Jennifer McDonald in Galveston said she planned to stay. She and her husband have enough food and water to last 10 days in their wooden house. If it gets really bad, the couple will take to the roof.

"If it goes, it goes," the 42-year-old nurse said of the house. "We're completely prepared." AP

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Congress, Palace urged to reconcile VAT positions

By Philip C. Tubeza

AN ADMINISTRATION CONGRESSMAN YESterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to convene the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) next week in order to reconcile the positions of Malacañang and Congress on the implementation of the fuel and electricity components in the Expanded Value-Added Tax (VAT) Law.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the House committee on economic affairs, said: "This should help clarify any policy uncertainty with respect to the fiscal reform program of the Arroyo administration which has been off-balanced by the unabated rise in oil prices to record highs."

Salceda initially filed a joint resolution, which he converted into a bill, deferring implementation of the VAT law's provisions taxing oil products and electricity to June 1, 2006, due to current soaring oil prices.

Malacañang had said the law should be implemented in full, with the President adding she was amenable to deferring the tax on oil and electricity if Congress wanted it.

Coming together

Salceda said the Ledac meeting, coming after the current political crisis erupted on May 30, would be a "good chance for the country's overly divided political leaders to come together, break the ice and find some space or common ground to move the socioeconomic agenda forward."

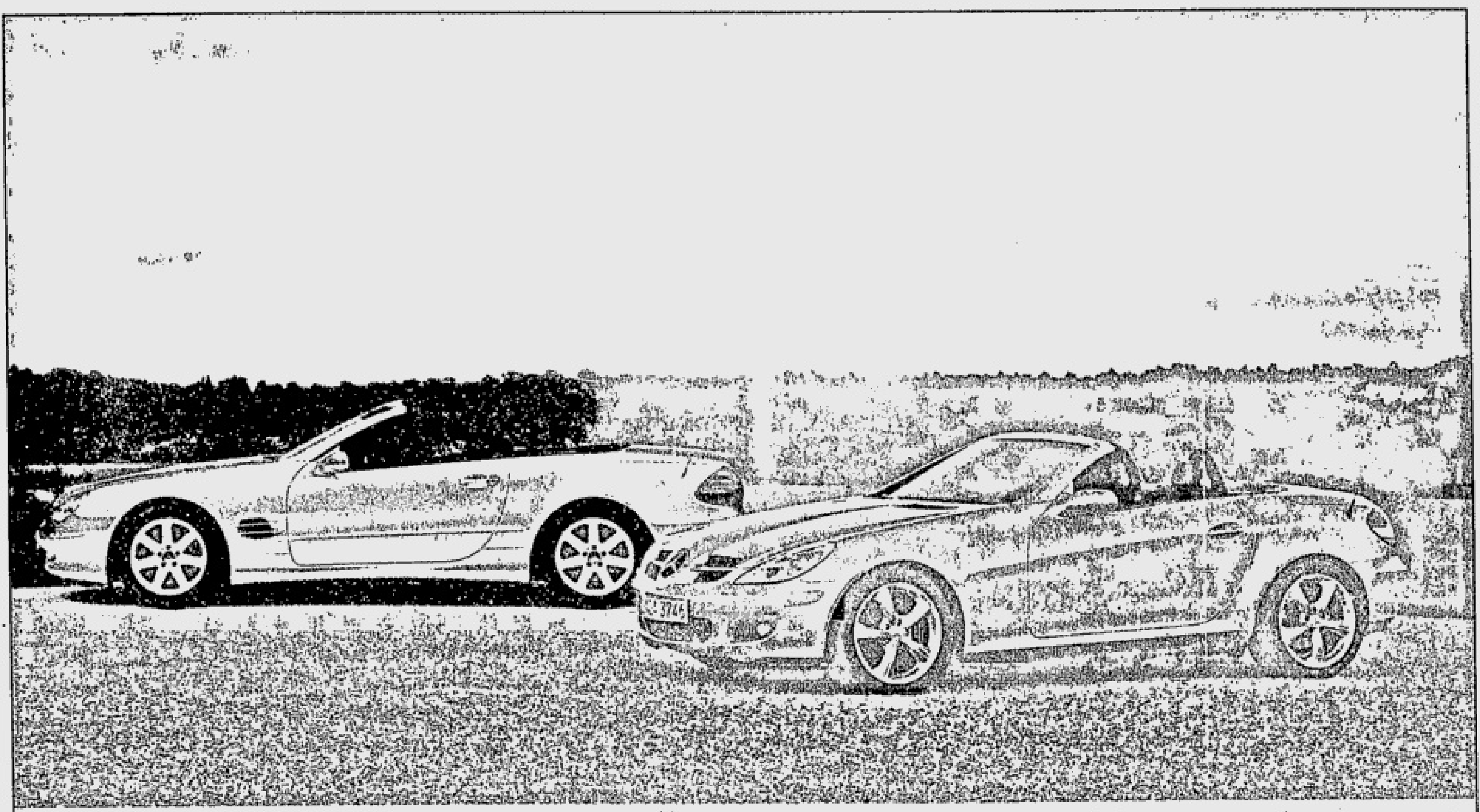
The Supreme Court is expected to rule in three weeks on the motions for reconsideration filed by opposition lawmakers who had questioned the VAT law's constitutionality.

Salceda said it was "still possible" Congress could pass his bill by the time the high court made its final ruling and lifted its TRO against the VAT law's implementation.

"We urge the House leadership and the committee on ways and means to give preferential attention to the issue given the exigency of providing temporary relief to urban working families and rural farm workers," Salceda said.

But while Salceda wants to defer the VAT on oil and power, the chair of the House committee on energy has filed a bill repealing those provisions in the law.

Lanao del Norte Rep. Alipio Badelles said he was "working double time" on House Bill No. 4669, which would exempt the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of power as well as the sale and importation of petroleum products from the VAT law.



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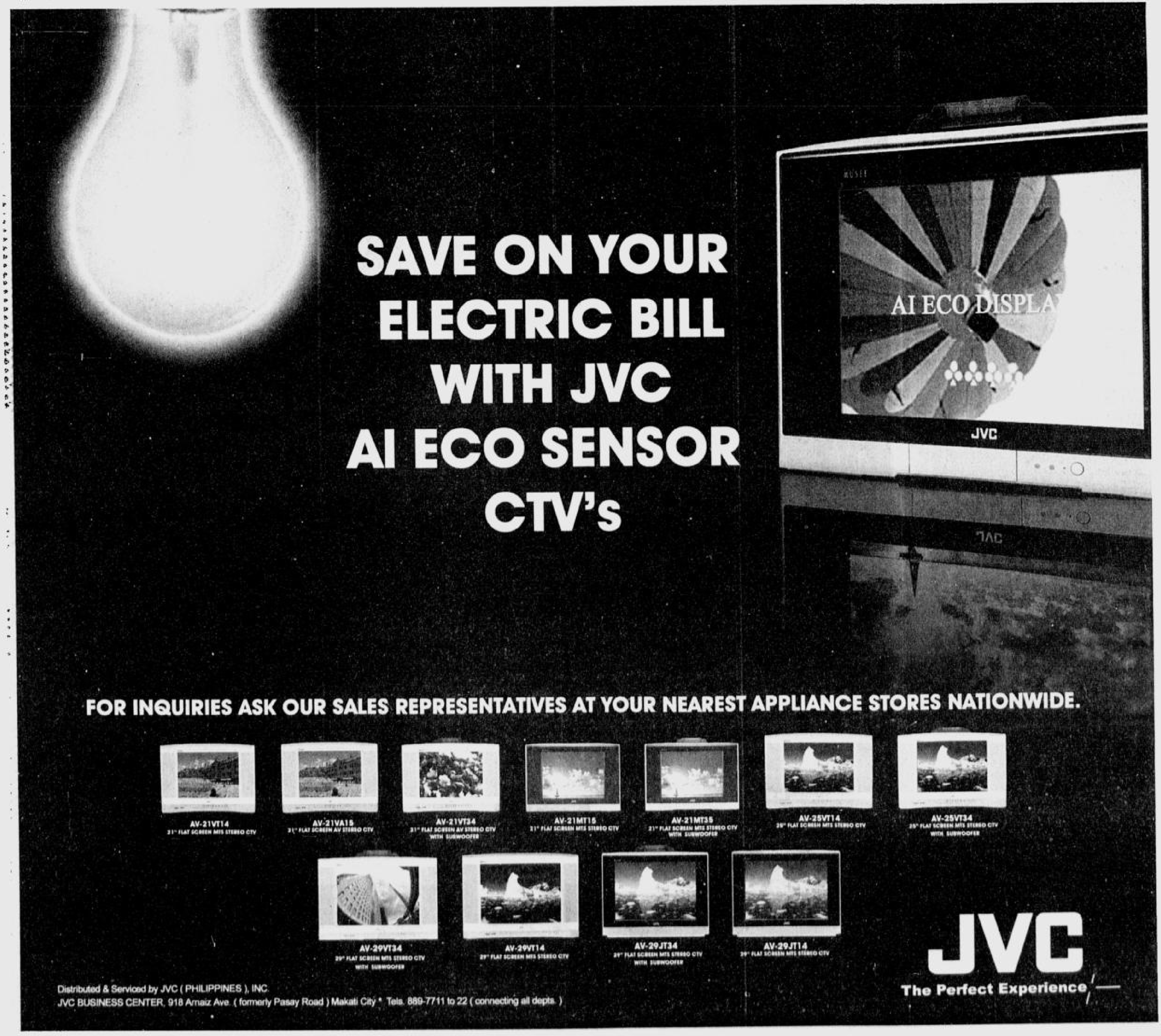
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DAR to let ax fall on Luisita next week

From page A1

The DAR has been extremely cautious in deciding the Luisita farm workers' petition to scrap the stock distribution option (SDO) agreement and award the nearly 5,000-hectare hacienda to farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, or Republic Act No. 6657. Congress passed the law in 1988 during the Aquino presidency.

The SDO allows landowners, who run their farms as corporations, to distribute shares of stock to farm workers in lieu of a land transfer.

Resign movement

Pangandaman has repeatedly said that the DAR's action on the petition, which has been pending since October 2003, is not related to political developments in the country.

Aquino has called for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and has led street protests following the junking of the impeachment complaints against the President by the House of Representatives.

"We discussed whether we could handle this case or it should be left to the court, and now we have decided that this is an agrarian issue and that the DAR has jurisdiction over it," Pangandaman said.

Undersecretary Nestor Acosta, head of the team created to study the legal issues in Task Force Luisita's recommendations, was ordered to submit a terminal report on the Luisita case today.

Acosta refused to divulge details of his report, but said that except for the labor issues, the DAR would answer the petitioners' allegations point by point.

Violations

Some 5,000 Luisita farm workers have alleged that the Cojuangcos; through Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI), had violated the terms of the SDO agreement and that their lives had not improved at all since the SDO took effect.

Last year, violence erupted at the hacienda when policemen and soldiers dismantled the picket of striking workers of the sugar mill. Seven people were killed.

Pangandaman, however, said the scope of the DAR's decision on Hacienda Luisita would cover only agrarian issues, specifically the petition to revoke the SDO and distribute the hacienda to farm workers.

"There were so many violations of the SDO that we just asked the DAR to do an ocular inspection and see for themselves how the farmers there were living," Jobert Pahilga of Sentra, one of the law firms handling the Luisita case for the farmers, said in an interview.

Pahilga said a team from the DAR regional office and Task Force Luisita went to the hacienda twice early this year and interviewed the farmers.

Coerced

A report on the focus group discussions held by the DAR in 10 barangays said many of the farmers who had signed the memorandum of agreement on the SDO did not understand the contract.

"Thirteen FWBs [farmer worker beneficiaries] signed, but they do not understand the terms and conditions. They were only coerced into signing the MOA, threatened that they would not be given [work] if they did not sign," the report said, pertaining to interviews in Barangay Mapalacsiao.

"One claimed that the one bearing the MOA was armed," the report added.

Pahilga said the farmers also presented a photocopy of a pay slip of Lamberto Tumang Jr., who took home only P9.50 from his gross pay of P194.50 due to deductions for an educational loan and union dues.

No dividends

He said the farmers had also told DAR officials during dialogues that they had never received dividends from their shares in Hacienda Luisita Inc. since the SDO agreement was signed in 1989.

"The shares of stocks are useless, no dividends are given (absurd because for 15 years, the HLI continues to operate)," the report said, the comment in parenthesis included.

Task Force Luisita started its investigation into the Luisita case following the violent dispersal of farm workers that killed seven people and injured hundreds in November last year.

Survey says more Filipinos going hungry

From page A1

ered themselves as having "experienced hunger" or had nothing to eat at least once in the past three months.

It was the second highest figure since SWS began its quarterly surveys on hunger in July 1998, the start of the Estrada administration. A record high of 16.1 percent was set in March 2001, two months after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over the presidency following the Edsa II uprising.

From the first quarterly survey to the last, hunger has been felt by 10.4 percent of the population on the average.

Around this time last year, the SWS poll showed that hunger spells were reported by 15.1 percent of Filipinos.

Malacañang, mainly through the Department of Social Welfare and Development, then responded by launching rice subsidy and food-for-work programs targeting schoolchildren and the unemployed in the country's poorest provinces.

Another mass feeding program for grade school pupils, this time offering vitamin-enriched noodles, is planned for implementation starting next year.

Very serious

In a statement yesterday, the SWS said the latest numbers—15.5 percent—indicate that the "people's current economic situation continues to be very serious." That figure, it said, represented an estimated 2.6 million families.

It was also higher than the previous quarterly survey conducted in May, when the hungry constituted 12 percent of all households.

In a parallel survey, however, SWS reported a decrease in the number of Filipinos who considered themselves "poor."

Self-rated poverty

"The proportion of household heads reporting themselves as 'mahirap' (poor) went down to 49 percent in August 2005, from 57 percent in May 2005," it said. SWS called this indicator "self-rated poverty."

Still, the monthly family budget, which the self-rated poor said they would need to escape poverty went up from P10,000 in May to P12,000 in August among Metro Manila respondents, according to SWS.

Lowering living standards

The polling group noted that what the respondents believed to be the "poverty threshold" budget had not really increased in the past five years despite the rise in the cost of living each year.

"The failure of the thresholds to increase despite so much inflation is a sign that the poor are actually lowering their real living standards," it said.

By area of respondents, the hunger level was 16.7 percent in Metro Manila, 18 percent in the rest of Luzon, 13.3 percent in the Visayas, and 12 percent in Mindanao.

To come up with the nationwide figure of 15.5 percent, SWS actually added up the answers of two types of "hungry" respondents: Those who felt "severe hunger" by missing meals "often or always" in the last three months, and those who endured "moderate hunger" or had nothing to eat "once or a few times" in the same period.

'Severe hunger'

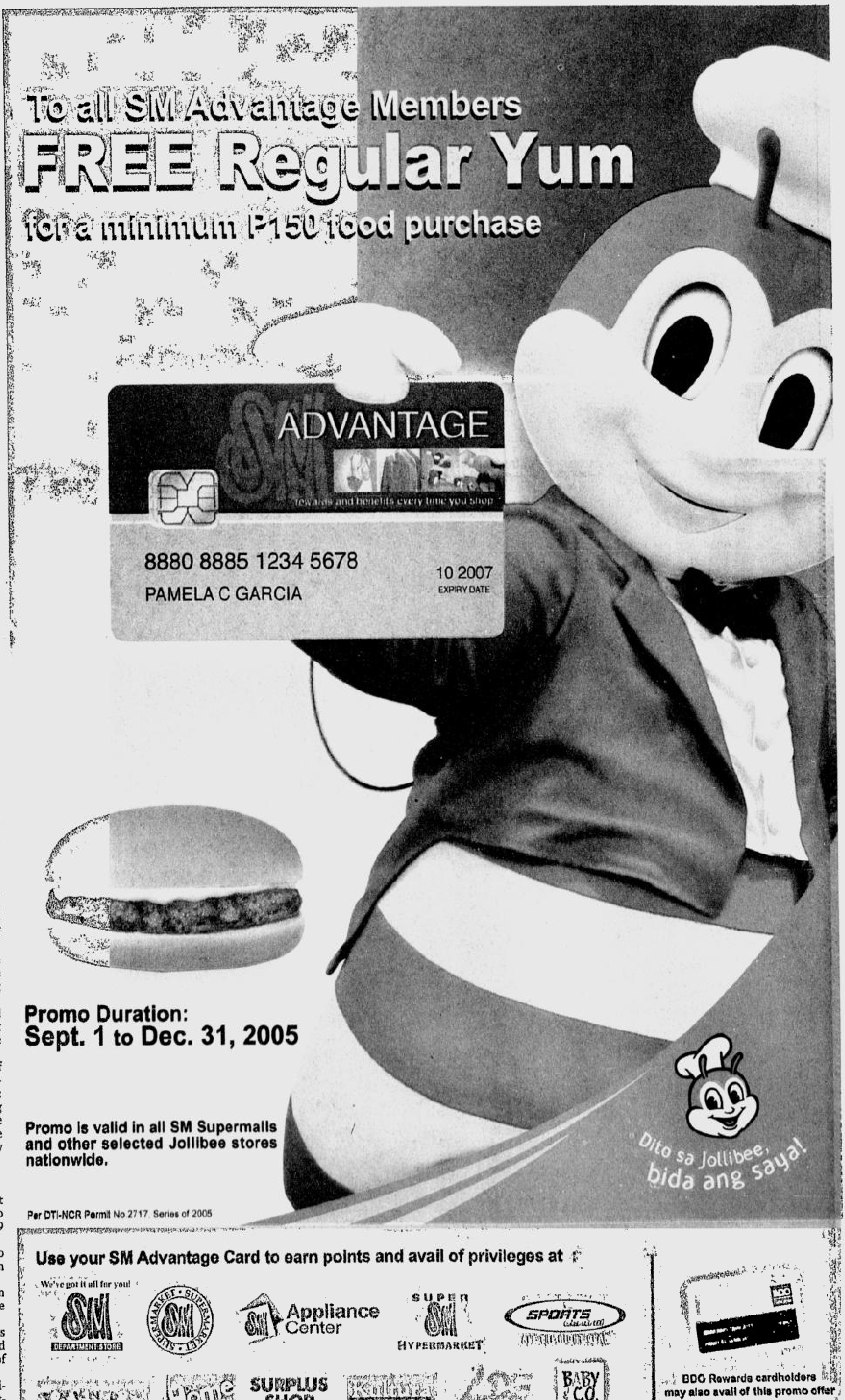
The "severe hunger" bracket in the August poll made up 2.6 percent—translating to about 400,000 families—compared with 2.9 in the May poll.

The "moderate hunger" grouping grew to 12.9 percent in August—about 2.1 million families—from 9.2 percent in May.

Compared with May, severe hunger rose in Metro Manila, while moderate hunger rose across the country, SWS noted.

SWS conducted face-to-face interviews with 1,200 randomly selected household heads—300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points for national percentages and plus or minus 6 percentage points for area percentages. *Volt Contreras*



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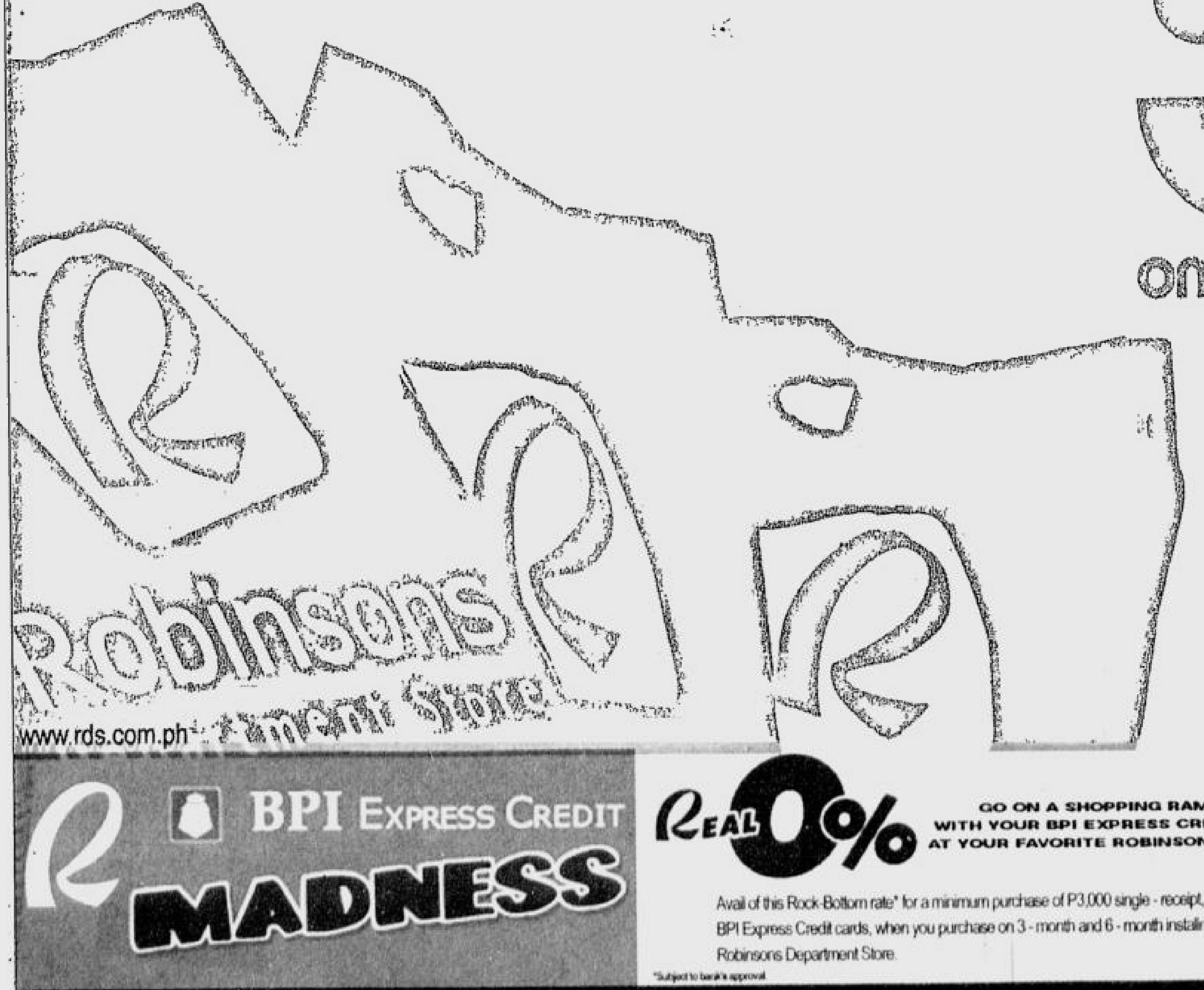

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Ilocano is 2nd RP bishop named by Benedict XVI

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE SECOND FILIPINO BISHOP TO BE APpointed by Pope Benedict XVI is a middle-aged, Ilocano monsignor with an extensive experience in seminary formation.

Msgr. Jacinto Agcaoili Jose, 54, was named the new prelate of the predominantly Ilocano-speaking Diocese of Urdaneta, Pangasinan, replacing Bishop Jesus C. Galang who died on Sept. 16 last year.

"More and more, the Church is inclined to place the new bishop among the kind of people he has known since he was born," Fr. James Reuter SJ, executive secretary of the National Office of Mass Media, yesterday said of the new prelate, who was born in Laoag.

With Jose's appointment, the country now has only five dioceses with no bishops—Bangued, Bontoc-Lagawe, Iligan, Laoag, and Tagbilaran.

Jose, a Canon Law expert, worked for 16 years as professor, prefect of discipline, and rector of seminaries in Vigan and Laoag in Ilocos.

Before his designation, he was the administrator of the Diocese of Laoag and was parish priest of Burgos and Santa Monica in the province.

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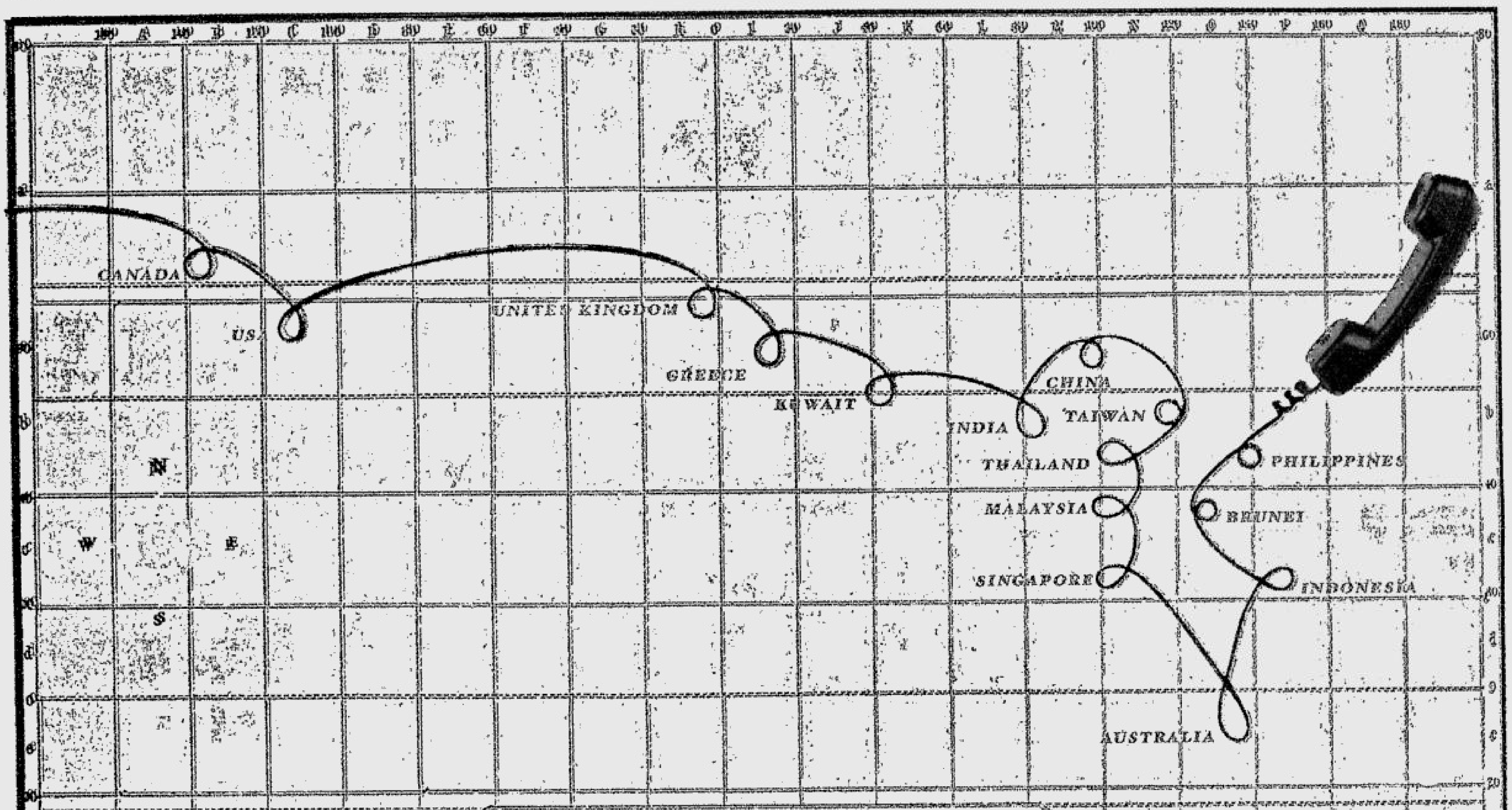

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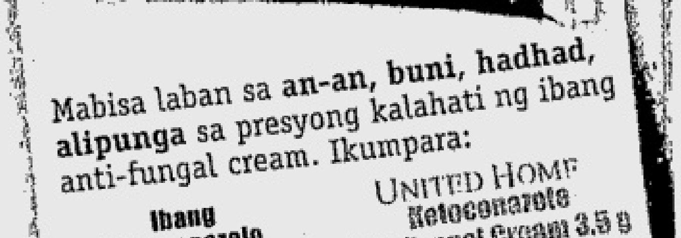

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Political instability behind brain drain, docs group says

POLITICAL INSTABILITY is the main reason why doctors and nurses are leaving the country, according to the Philippine Medical Association.

The continuing political crisis ranked first of eight "push factors" in the phenomenon of doctors shifting to nursing so they could work abroad, according to a PMA primer.

Since 2003, the PMA said at least 3,500 physicians have left the country to become nurses abroad.

Around 4,000 are now enrolled in nursing schools and 2,347 took the Nursing Licensure Exam from June 2004 to 2005.

Better opportunities abroad was the reason for leaving given by 87,852 nurses who left from 1992 to 2003, according to the PMA, citing records from the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA).

The PMA said the figure may not even reflect the true situation as nurses who are hired directly by foreign employers do not usually go through the POEA.

"Today, even professionals are emigrating. To them, the Philippines is no longer a good place to live in or raise a family. The nursing profession has provided the means," according to the primer.

The PMA, the umbrella group of all medical and specialty organizations in the country, is set to tackle the points raised in the primer during a medical summit workshop that opens tomorrow.

"The exodus of doctors is inextricably linked to the current political crisis, we really have to resolve the crisis soon," said Dr. Gene Nisperos, secretary general of the Health Alliance for Democracy, in an interview.

Nisperos noted that the biggest exodus of nurses—at least 51,000—occurred between 2000 to 2003, during the period then President Estrada was toppled by a people power uprising and replaced by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But political instability was not the sole reason why doctors and nurses are leaving.

Other factors cited were "poor working conditions, threat of a malpractice law [being passed], low salaries and compensation, peace and order problems, high taxes, decreased stature of doctors, and inadequate resources to perform (their) functions."

Doctors and nurses usually chose to go to the United States, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates.

A Filipino nurse in the US earns between $4,000 and $6,000 a month compared with a nurse here who gets a a monthly salary of $180 to $240, according to PMA records.

The PMA has called for the enactment of a National Health Service Act that would require "all licensed health professionals from state colleges and universities to serve anywhere within the country for a number of years equivalent to the number of years that took them to study their health professions."

Another proposal is for the Philippine Health Insurance Inc. to provide incentives to doctors and nurses who choose to serve in areas where they or professionals like them are needed most.

Low-interest loans from the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines would encourage rural doctors and nurses to put up their own hospitals or polyclinics, the PMA said.

Christian V. Esguerra

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PTA chief's suspension of Duty Free head reversed

By Jerome Aning

TOURISM ACTING Secretary Oscar Palabyab yesterday reversed the order of Philippine Tourism Authority chief Robert Dean Barbers suspending the general manager of Duty Free Philippines who was being investigated for entering several allegedly questionable contracts in the past years.

In his memorandum to Barbers, Palabyab backed DFP general manager Michael Kho's motion for reconsideration and temporarily set aside the preventive suspension order. Kho claimed Barbers did not have the authority to suspend him.

"The status quo would be maintained until Secretary Joseph Ace Durano arrives from an official trip abroad on Sept. 26," Palabyab, undersecretary for tourism services and regional offices, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Palabyab noted that Barbers' order did not go through the PTA Board, which Durano chairs. Barbers said he was empowered to suspend and investigate Kho because DFP is under PTA.

Barbers flew to Japan also for an official trip after approving the suspension order and the filing of administrative charges for Kho the other day.

The PTA chief earlier asked Kho to explain several contracts he entered into that were allegedly disadvantageous to the government and violative of rules laid down by the Commission on Audit.

One controversial contract that Kho entered was a supply agreement for chocolates, confectioneries and other snacks. The contract was made with Eastern Duty Free, a British Virgin Islands-based firm, during the tenure of Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan.

DFP Employees Union president Dennis Mallari, who exposed the deal, last year claimed that DFP stood to lose P336 million a year, or P1.6 billion five years, over the deal. The union also filed charges against Kho before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Kho said DFP's supply accords were in the nature of consignment agreements and not concessions, where DFP continues to handle the importation, marketing, sale and warehousing of goods.

He said the accords were approved by the PTA Board and based on long-standing supply arrangements begun since the inception of the DFP during the Aquino administration.

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Charles Darwin UNIVERSITY Australia

Filipina realizes dream education in Australia

Amber Favis has high hopes for her future. So much so that she left her home country, the Philippines, to study Engineering at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, Australia.

Amber, 25, gained a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at the University of the Philippines in Manila in 2002. She then spent 4 months working for the engineering construction company, VibraMetrics.

However, wanting to go further in her career, Amber began assessing her options. "Ultimately, I want to get into an engineering management role in the construction industry" she said.

"I was working for IDP when I found out about the Engineering courses at Charles Darwin University in Darwin, Australia."

"The courses sounded perfect."

Amber applied and was accepted for a scholarship position in the Masters of Engineering Management course at Charles Darwin University and began her studies in March this year.

"When I first arrived in Australia I knew no one," she said.

"I had no family and friends and I was unbelievably homesick, but everyone was so friendly and nice that after only a couple of days I felt completely settled in."

Amber lives on campus in North Flinders International House, where she has access to facilities such as computers, professional mentoring and support and lives with students from all over the world.

"There is such a mix of people living at North Flinders," she said.

"I now have friends from all over the world not only from Australia. So many international students come to study here, it's such a great experience."

Amber also has high praise for her lecturers and rates the support she has been given in her classes highly: "The support I have been given is fantastic."

"There is a lot of student-teacher interaction and support in Australia and everyone is enthusiastic and friendly.

"Students here aren't afraid to speak up, whereas in the Philippines the relationship between the student and teacher is more traditional. In Australia I can actually talk to my lecturer as an equal."

"Classes are more practical in Australia, compared to back home which is theory based. Here, you get to apply what you have learnt."

Head of the School of Engineering Dr Friso De Boer said that "Engineering at the Charles Darwin University is entering into an exciting phase of growth. Many large scale engineering projects are currently under way in the Northern Territory of Australia, underpinning the strong demand for engineering graduates from Charles Darwin University. We would like our international engineering students to become part of this exciting development."

There are many pathways and options into study at Charles Darwin University for prospective international students.

Director of International Office Mr Dennis Meehan said "Charles Darwin University is an excellent study destination for students from the Philippines. The University offers quality programs with excellent student facilities. There is a supportive local community that welcomes students and the tropical weather is an added bonus."

Amber will be available at the IDP office in Makati City on 30 September and 01 October 2005 if you are interested in finding out more information about studying at Charles Darwin University. For a confidential interview and assessment with Amber please call Ely Cuaton at (02) 816-0755 local 110 or Jonathan Omagbon at local 109 or email info@manila.idp.com

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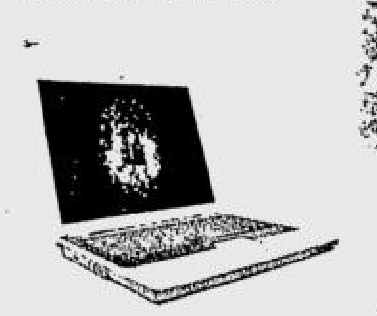
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

World finally wakes up to bird flu threat

SINGAPORE—AFTER TREATING bird flu as a largely Asian problem, the world is now waking up to the danger that millions of people could die from a pandemic if drastic counter-measures are not put in place.

US President George W. Bush has called for an "international partnership" against the threat with the dreaded H5N1 virus now creeping into Europe, and countries are stocking up on flu medicine as scientists search for a vaccine.

The fear is that the H5N1 virus in domesticated poultry and migratory birds will develop into a strain that is easily transferable among humans.

Experts fear there will only be a window of a few weeks to contain an outbreak before a pandemic virus spreads with lethal speed.

Indonesia's health minister Siti Fadilah Supari on Wednesday warned the country was facing a bird flu epidemic as two more possible victims, both young girls, died after showing signs of infection, following four confirmed deaths from the virus.

"Inevitable is a strong word," Bob Dietz, a spokesperson for the World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Response Team in the Asia-Pacific region, said when asked about the probability of a pandemic.

"But the virus is so widespread at this point that we would be irresponsible not to prepare as if the situation is indeed inevitable," he said by e-mail.

"No one can quantify the probability of a pandemic strain of influenza emerging, but over time the likelihood seems so high that for the sake of protecting global health we must treat it as just that—'inevitable.'"

The WHO has been warning about avian flu for more than 18 months and welcomed strong US involvement in the battle against the menace. It has been helping Asian countries develop national counter-measures.

In a regional meeting Wednesday in New Caledonia, the UN health agency's Asia-Pacific member countries approved a strategy to counter emerging diseases including bird flu.

Dr. Shigeru Omi, WHO's regional director, warned that the plan could not be carried out without the help of wealthier nations and urged Asian countries to change their farming practices to prevent the spread of the virus.

The latest avian flu outbreak was detected in South Korea in late 2003. It has now hit 11 countries, with the H5N1 strain killing 63 people in Southeast Asia so far, excluding the two latest deaths in Indonesia.

But the current death toll would be a mere hiccup compared to a pandemic. *AFP*

Worst-case scenarios: 7 to 100 million dead worldwide

PARIS—A WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC FROM A mutated bird flu virus could kill anything from seven to 100 million people, according to worst-case scenarios being studied by the World Health Organization and scientists.

With WHO officials warning of when, not if, the virus goes worldwide, the race is on to work out how to contain a devastating pandemic.

A strain of bird flu known as H5N1 has killed at least 63 people in Southeast Asia since it resurfaced in 2003, the majority in Vietnam, and led to the slaughter of millions of birds and poultry flocks.

But it could cause a pandemic if it mutates into an infectious human form, in a scenario eerily similar to the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918-1919 when a new strain emerged to which people were not immune.

At the time the virus spread around the world within six months and killed up to 50 million people.

Two other flu pandemics erupted in 1957 and 1968, killing four million and two million people respectively.

So far, bird flu has not adapted to an infectious human form. Although dozens of people have died, there is no evidence yet that the virus has yet passed from person to person.

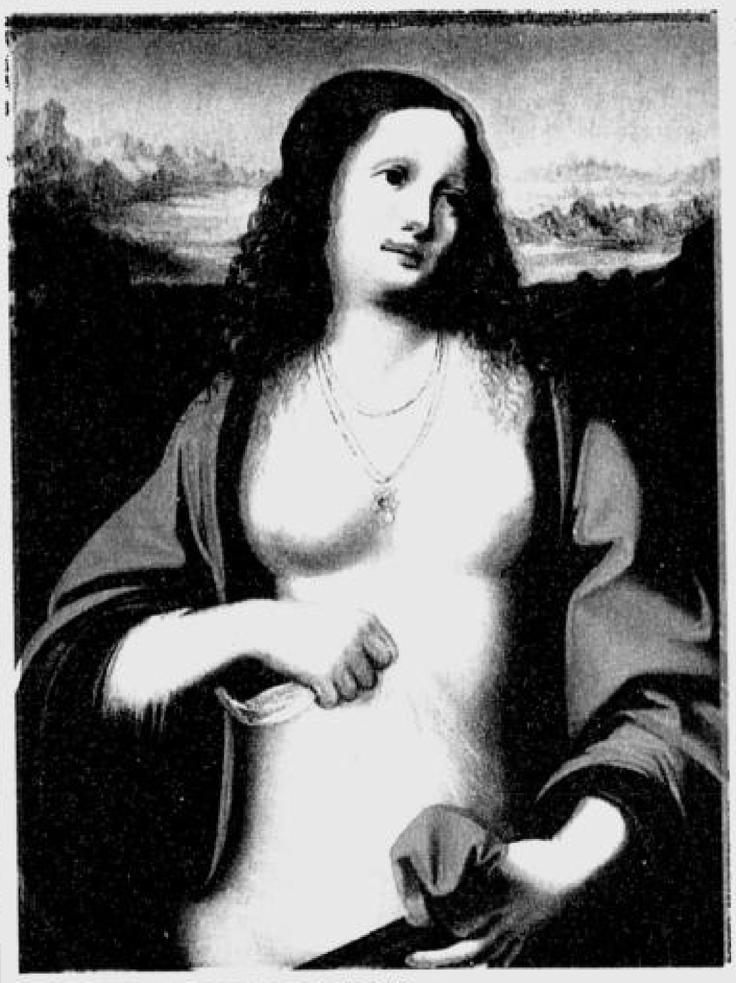
"It's obvious that a pandemic will occur, all the conditions are in place. The problem now is time," WHO director-general Lee Jong-wook said this week.

If avian flu does mutate into the 21st century's first pandemic, it could sicken 20 percent of the world's population, with nearly 30 million people in need of hospital treatment and a quarter of those eventually dying, according to forecasts in Science magazine by Klaus Stoehr and another WHO expert.

His predictions are among the most optimistic, scientist Albert Osterhaus and other Dutch experts warned in May.

"The most conservative estimates agree on seven to 10 million dead but 50, or in the worst case 100 million, could well be the maximum," WHO's regional director Shigeru Omi warned last year.

The estimates are mainly based on the mortality rate—two percent of the sick—in the Spanish flu pandemic, while also taking into account the rise in the world population, improved health care and changing travel patterns. *AFP*



NOT SO DEMURE DA VINCI

A painting called Mary Magdalene, which leading art historian Carlo Pedretti of the University of California believes may have been painted by Leonardo da Vinci together with one of his pupils, is seen in a handout released Sept. 22. The painting, measuring 58 cm by 45 cm, was believed to have been painted in 1515, four years before the master died. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

Sheehan in Washington

WASHINGTON—Antiwar protestors led by Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a soldier killed in Iraq, descended on Washington ahead of a demonstration scheduled for Saturday and three weeks after ending a long protest outside President George W. Bush's Texas ranch. Sheehan rose to fame after spending much of August camped outside Bush's ranch trying in vain to meet with the president to demand an explanation why her son, army specialist Casey Sheehan, 24, was killed. Sheehan said her group, Goldstar Mothers for Peace, has been "greeted with overwhelming support, in blue (Democratic) states and in red (Republican) states." The protesters, gathered under the banner "Bring Them Home Now," are "going to show Congress and the administration that we mean business when we say we want peace," she added. Sheehan set up Camp Casey—named for her son killed in Baghdad in April 2004—just blocks away from the White House. *AFP*

EU backs off on Iran

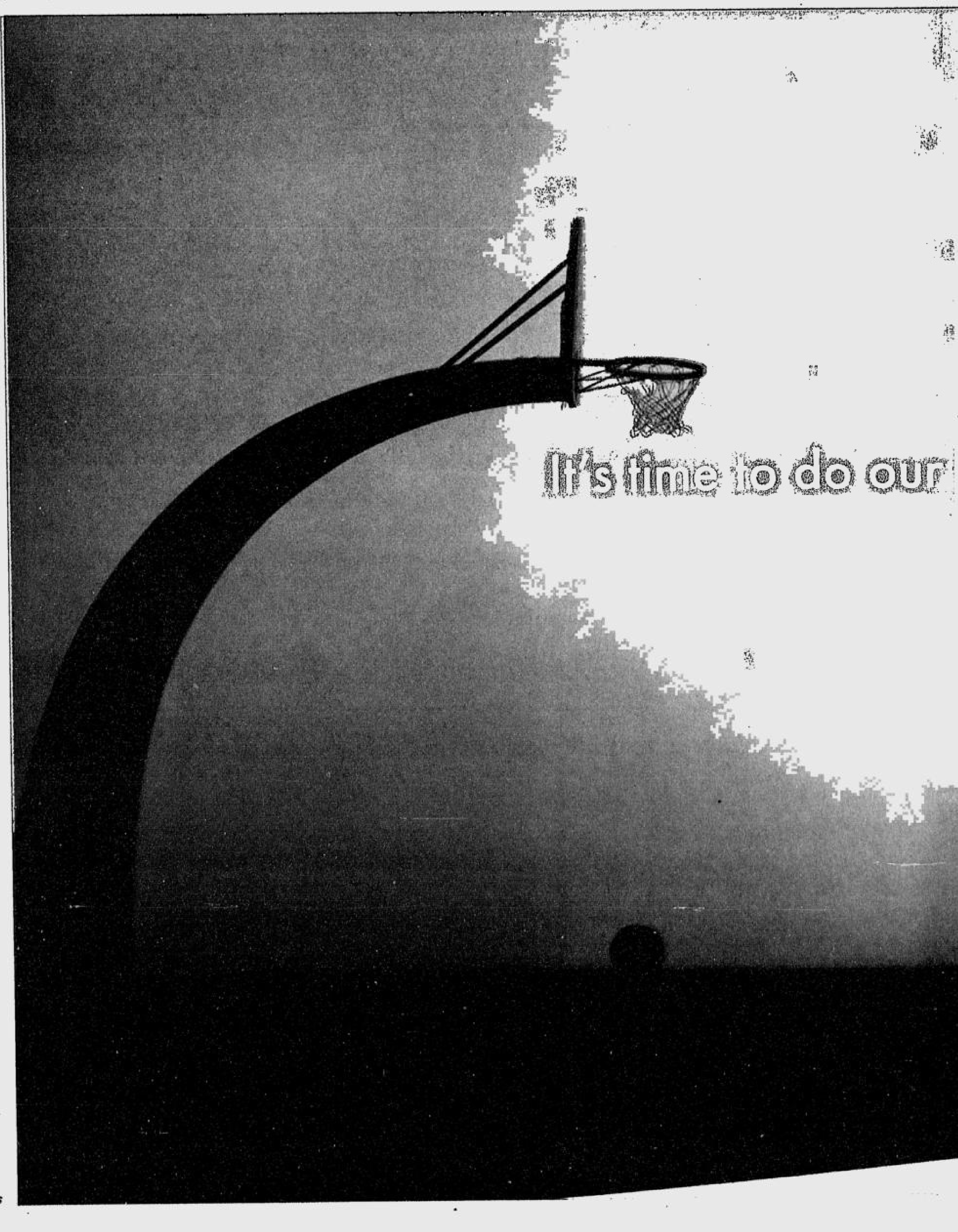
VIENNA—The European Union has backed off from its attempt to have Iran immediately called before the UN Security Council over its nuclear program, according to a draft UN resolution read to AFP Thursday. The EU earlier in the week had been calling overtly for Iran's immediate referral to the Council over nuclear activities which the United States claims hide weapons work. But this was opposed at a meeting in Vienna this week of the UN watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency's 35-nation board of governors by Russia, China and nonaligned nations which fear that Council actions against Iran could escalate into calls for trade sanctions that would draw sharp retaliation from the oil giant. *AFP*

Protest in Basra

BASRA, Iraq—Iraqi police staged an angry anti-British protest in Basra on Wednesday as London and Baghdad sought to quell tension over a British raid to free two undercover soldiers held in the southern city. About 200 policemen who work at the police station and jail damaged during Monday's British raid marched through the streets, calling for the city's police chief to be fired and for the "British terrorists" to be returned to Iraqi jurisdiction. British forces raided the jail to free two undercover soldiers who were detained by Iraqi security forces following a firefight on Monday. In the raid, British armored vehicles crushed the walls of the jail before troops rescued the men. The British said the men were held by a militia group who had gained custody of them from police. But Iraqi Interior Minister Bayan Jabor told the BBC the men had never left police custody, and were not handed to militants. *Reuters*

Mexico minister killed

HUIXQUILUCAN, Mexico—Mexico's public security minister, a key figure in the war against drug cartels, was killed along with eight others on Wednesday when his helicopter crashed in fog in mountains near the capital. Rescue workers found the charred wreckage of Ramon Martin Huerta's helicopter six hours after contact was lost early into a flight from the capital to a high-security prison. In a televised address, President Vicente Fox vowed to push on with his fight against violent gangs running drugs into the United States. "Today, more than ever, I repeat the commitment of my government and of the nation to build a safe Mexico, of justice, peace and freedom," he said. Fox said the crash was "a terrible accident." Martin Huerta was one of the president's closest aides and an old friend *Reuters*



Bush waives rights sanctions on Saudi, Kuwait

WASHINGTON — PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Wednesday waived sanctions against Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Ecuador which the United States had earlier criticized as among the world's worst offenders in permitting human trafficking.

The presidential determination issued as a memorandum to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice waived sanctions against Kuwait and Saudi Arabia because it was in US interest to continue democracy programs and security cooperation on the war on terrorism, an administration official said.

In the case of Ecuador, a full waiver of sanctions was granted because it was in US interest to strengthen Ecuador's democracy and support its efforts to combat trafficking in narcotics and people, the official said.

In June, the State Department in its annual report on human trafficking downgraded Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to the lowest level of compliance in efforts to fight human trafficking.

The Gulf allies had provided logistical support for the 2003 US invasion of Iraq and have oil resources important for the United States.

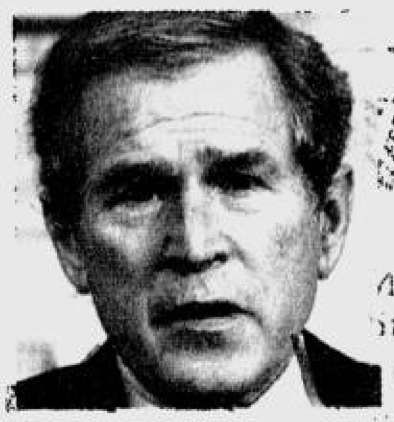
The State Department human trafficking report put them into the lowest category called Tier 3, in which countries may be subject to sanctions included withholding of US aid that is not for humanitarian or trade purposes, if they do not improve their records in three months.

The presidential determination said Cambodia, Venezuela, Burma, Cuba and North Korea should be sanctioned for "continued failure to comply with the act's minimum standards and failure to make significant efforts to comply," the administration official said.

Bolivia, Jamaica, Qatar, Sudan, Togo and the United Arab Emirates were determined to have made "significant efforts to comply" with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act since the State Department released its report, the official said.

That effectively removed those countries off the lowest level of Tier 3, the official said.

Reuters


BUSH

SILVER SWAN
SUSTANSYARAP
TIPID RESIPES below P100*

No.1

BEEFY RICE-CORN OMELET

1/4 cup	cooking oil	1/2 cup	corn
1/4 cup	potatoes, cubed	150 g	corned beef
2 cloves	garlic, minced	1/4 tsp	ground pepper
2 Tbsp	white onion, minced	1/4 tsp	salt
1/2 cup	cooked rice	4 pcs	eggs, individually fried omelet
1 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**		**Silver Swan sweet chili sauce**

Procedure:

1. Fry potatoes in hot oil until golden yellow in color. Remove from oil and set aside.
2. Sauté garlic, onion and cooked rice in the same pan.
3. Season with **Silver Swan soy sauce.**
4. Add corn, potatoes and corned beef to the stir-fried rice. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Place 1/4 of the mixture in the center of one omelet. Fold half side of omelet to close. Repeat the same procedure for the remaining mixture and omelet.
6. Serve with **Silver Swan sweet chili sauce.** Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Fat	CHO	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
14	23	31	5	10	23	9	32	7	26	16	7

A serving meets close to 1/3 of the recommended energy and nutrient intake of vitamin A. It is also rich in riboflavin and phosphorus.

CURRIED VEGETABLE-PINSEC FRITO

2 Tbsp	cooking oil	1/2 bunch	kangkong, shredded
2 pcs	tokwa, sliced into strips	4 stems	spring onion, chopped
1/4 cup	squash, sliced into strips	12 pcs	lumpia wrapper, each cut into 4
1/2 cup	camote, sliced into strips	1 cup	cooking oil for deep frying
1 clove	garlic, crushed	1 Tbsp	cornstarch (dispersed in 1/2 cup boiling water) for paste
2 tsp	curry powder	**Dipping Sauce:**	
1/2 cup	sitaw, sliced thinly	4 Tbsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**
1 pc	red bell pepper, sliced thinly	2 Tbsp	**Silver Swan sukang puti**
1/4 cup	evaporated milk	4 tsp	white sugar
2 tsp	**Silver Swan soy sauce**		

Procedure:

1. Fry tokwa in 2 Tbsp cooking oil until golden brown. Set aside.
2. Sauté squash and camote until half tender. Set aside.
3. In another pan, stir-fry garlic and curry powder. Cook until garlic turns brown.
4. Add sitaw and bell pepper. Cook until sitaw becomes tender.
5. Add the tokwa, squash and camote and then stir in the evaporated milk and **Silver Swan soy sauce.**
6. Add the kangkong and spring onion. Cook for 2 minutes.
7. Put 2 Tbsp of the mixture in the center of the lumpia wrapper. Fold into a triangle. Seal the sides with cornstarch paste. Deep fry the triangles until golden brown.
8. Serve with the combined ingredients for dipping sauce. Makes 4 servings.

% Recommended energy and nutrient intakes

Energy	Pro	Ca	P	Fe	VitA	VitB1	VitB2	VitB3	VitC
14	17	30	21	13	46	14	17	9	56

A serving meets close to one third of the recommended nutrient intake for calcium. It is also packed with vitamin A and vitamin C.

*Based on July 1, 2005 prices

Watch out! NEW RECIPES September 30

Cut and Save!

Developed for SILVER SWAN under the supervision of Ma. Veritas F. Luna, Ph.D. of the College of Home Economics, University of the Philippines

Distressed US jet makes dramatic emergency landing

LOS ANGELES—A US AIRLINER WITH 146 people on board made a dramatic but safe emergency landing Wednesday amid a hail of sparks and smoke after its nose wheels jammed wildly out of alignment.

The JetBlue Airways Airbus A-320 with 140 passengers and six crew on board touched down gently on Los Angeles International Airport's runway 25 at 6:19 p.m., with its front wheels locked 90 degrees to the left.

Sparks, flames and a pall of thick smoke erupted from the tires as they scraped along the tarmac, as scores of fire engines and ambulances raced alongside the stricken plane that had taken off from nearby Burbank airport three hours earlier bound for New York's John F. Kennedy airport.

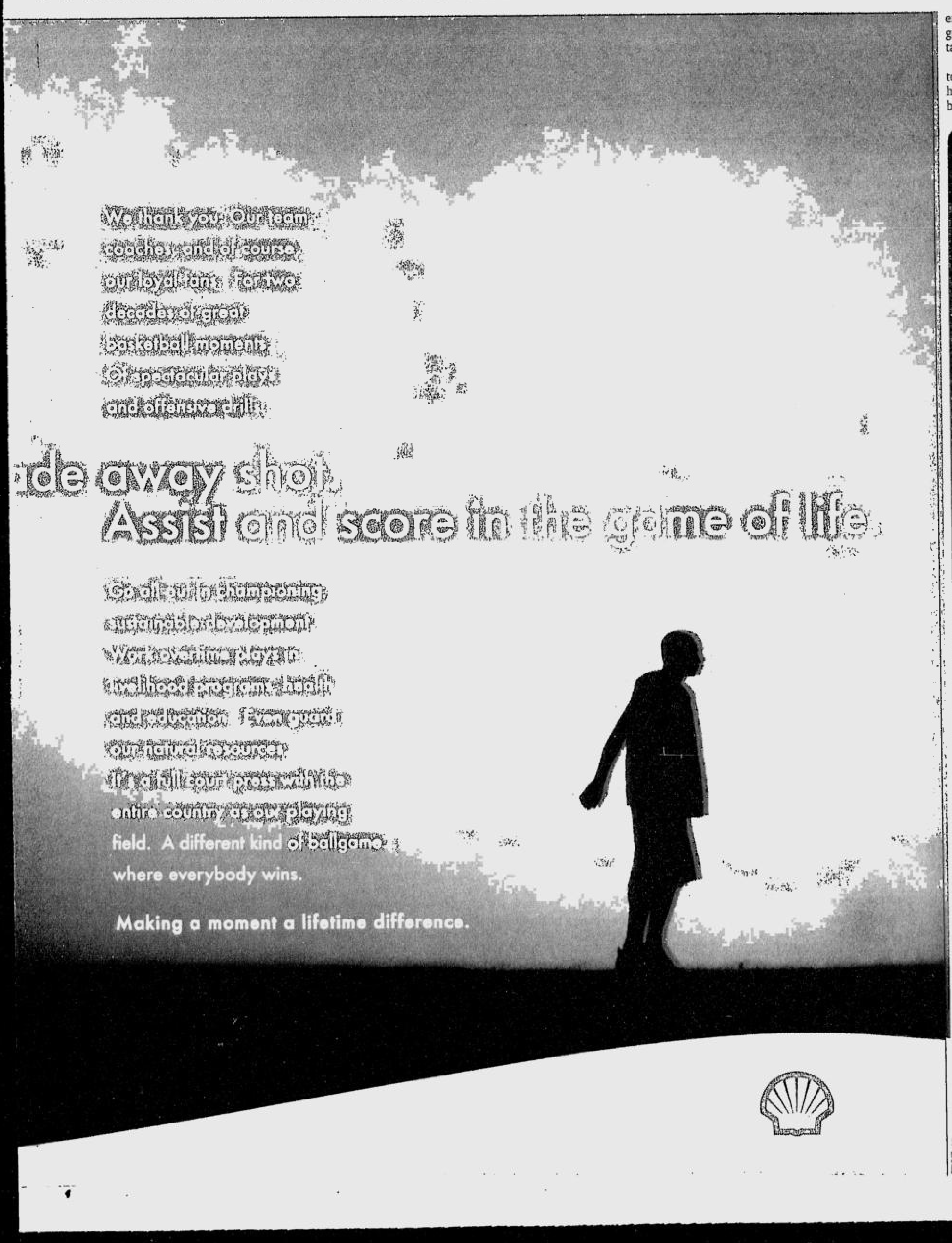
But while the two front wheels never straightened, the flames quickly died down and passengers began disembarking normally using rolling stairways a few minutes after it came to rest on the tarmac.

"JetBlue Airways is very happy to report that flight 292 landed safely at 6:19 p.m. and we have no initial reports of injuries to either customers or crew," airline spokesperson Brian Parrish told AFP.

After the harrowing landing, the plane's emergency slides were not deployed. Passengers walked down the stairs onto buses to be taken away for medical checks.

"I'm quite relieved," passenger Mike Miceli told NBC4 television, adding that passengers had been warned to brace for a rough landing but had remained calm.

AFP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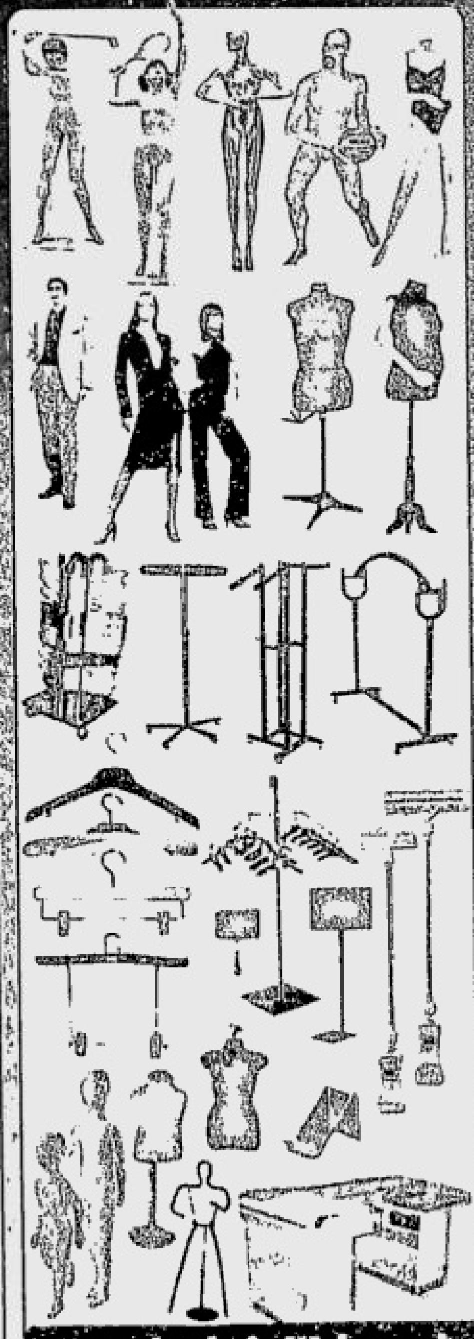

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Divided loyalties

EDITORIAL

CONSULAR REPORTS, AS OUR HISTORY SHOWS, are one of the mainstays of the diplomatic profession. More often than not, they are cobbled together from news reports, opinion columns and editorials, and coffee-shop talk and the occasional one-on-one meeting, whether at cocktail parties or behind closed doors. The views they represent are the pooled opinions (fancifully called "analysis") of diplomats seeking to prove to the home office that they're doing more work than merely processing visas and attending each other's national day receptions.

What a diplomat in Manila writes to higher-ups in Washington reflects what his boss cares about, and unless the information was obtained by bribery, intimidation or some other form of skullduggery, it is intelligence and not espionage. When those documents, in turn, find their way back into Filipino hands, through the activities of a Filipino working for the Americans, then that is espionage, since acquiring those documents involves breaking American laws and national security regulations. When a Filipino citizen is implicated in the process, then the Philippine government is obligated to come to the assistance of the Filipino in distress.

But what concerns us here is a curious process that has been going on. What are the repercussions when reports filed by US officials from Manila end up being read by Filipinos who happen to figure prominently in those reports? If the American consular and other diplomatic reports intercepted by Filipinos demonstrate just what exactly the United States is interested in, and more so, what or who the United States thinks are in a position to further American strategic and economic interests, then the behavior of the Filipinos reading such reports is instructive.

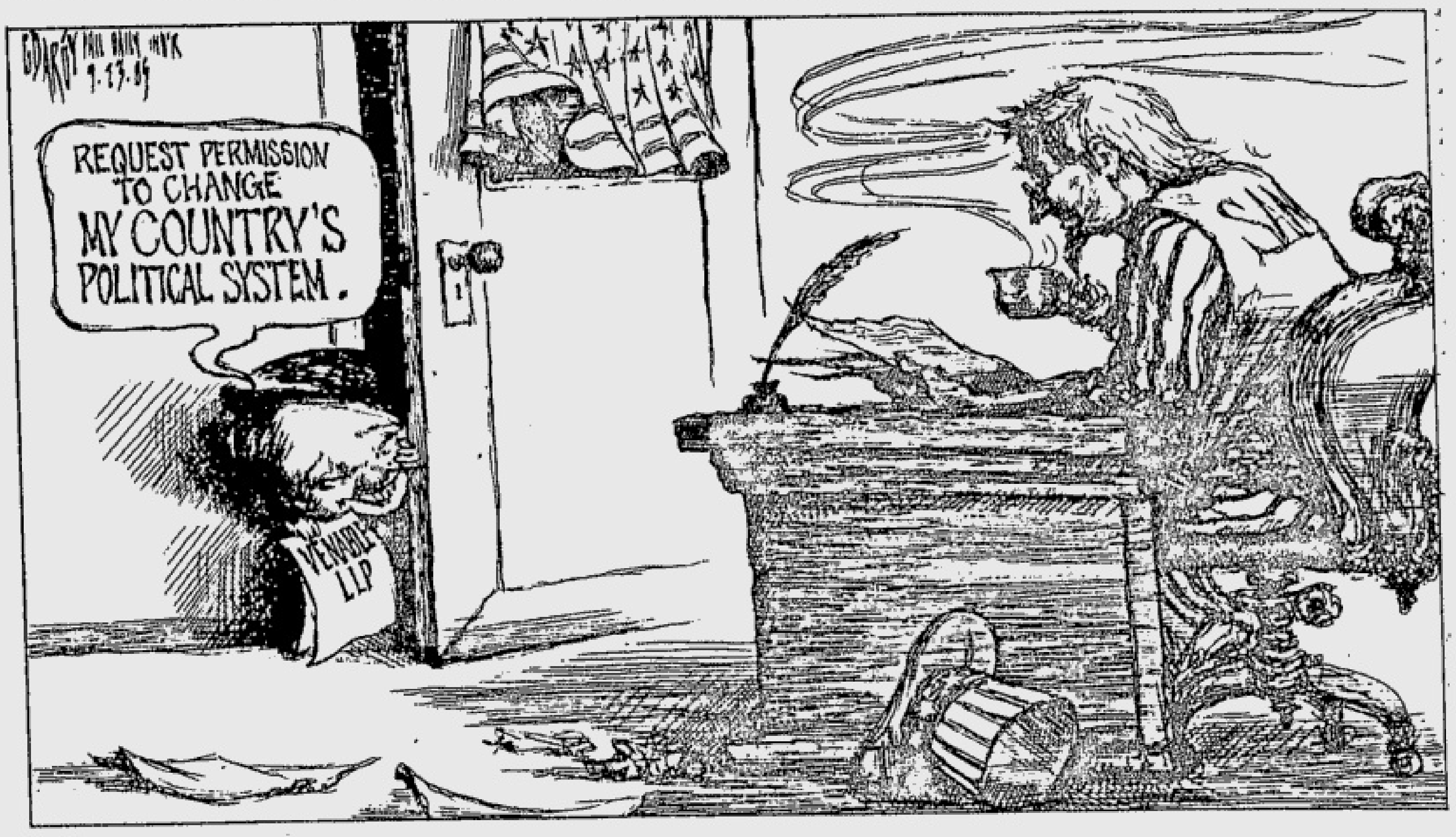
Instructive of what? Instructive, first of all, of just how essential American official opinions and policies are to our politicians. Instructive, too, as to how politicians end up calculating their moves not only according to domestic political considerations, but also according to their interpretation of the US government's interpretation of the political scene.

A good case in point is former President Joseph Estrada, who hasn't been shy about admitting that he was the recipient of e-mail from Michael Ray Aquino. As the FBI reports themselves (as reported in this newspaper) indicate, around the time President Macapagal-Arroyo's troubles began, US Embassy officials were telling the home office that Estrada remained popular among the *masa* and retained an aura of legitimacy among the people.

Here we have US officials saying Estrada is popular. Estrada reads what they are saying about him and very soon announces that he is prepared to resume leadership of the country, and proceeds to dramatize his preparedness by shuffling papers on his desk, saying he's being briefed by experts. Our readers recall that time, but it is only now, after we are made aware of official US diplomatic reports ending up on Estrada's desk, that the timing of his actions makes some sense. Estrada the actor was playing not to the *masa* gallery as was generally presumed. He was trying to attract Washington's attention—a political "Yoohoo, I'm here!" of the first order.

As more and more of past American political analyses get revealed, a greater scrutiny of those documents has become very important. The exercise is useful not only to decipher where America's interests lie (those interests have always been clear enough: security, investments and using our defense alliance as a foil to rival powers such as China), but to learn how shallow the loyalties of some our politicians tend to be.

Yesterday we observed that Vice President Noli de Castro would have done better had he showed the Americans the door rather than allowing himself to be subjected to what sounded very much like a job interview. Now we go one step further and ask the beneficiaries of stolen American intelligence reports: If the real objective of stealing them wasn't to help our country but only to find ways for America to help you, how can the country trust you? How can you serve the country when you are already serving two masters—your ambition and Uncle Sam?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Don't let Gonzales malinger at Heart Center

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE TROUBLE WITH LYING IS THAT AFTER you tell one lie, you have to tell another to cover up for the first one, and after that, you tell more and more lies to cover up for each succeeding lie. With a good cross-examiner, you get entangled in the contradictions of your lies and you are caught.

That's what happened to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales at the Senate Blue Ribbon hearing the other day, for which he was cited in contempt of the Senate and detained. But he still managed to pull a fast one on the senators by getting himself confined in a luxury suite of the Philippine Heart Center instead of in the Senate, allegedly because of high blood pressure and low blood sugar.

Gonzales will probably malinger at the Heart Center where he is free to be visited by family, friends, supporters and officials and lawyers of the Arroyo administration, possibly including the President herself, for being a loyal gang member and not ratting on the others, just like Mafia gangsters observing their vow of *omerta*, or silence.

Anybody with high blood pressure will tell you that it does not require more than an overnight stay in a hospital to put your blood pressure back to normal. There are now so many medicines to lower blood pressure. As for low blood sugar, a glassful of soft drink or a piece of candy will raise your blood sugar within 10 minutes.

Doctors should not allow themselves to be used to make a mockery of the law and the Senate. They should hand him back to the Senate sergeant-at-arms as soon as his condition warrants it.

Let's face it, Gonzales has been an embarrassment to the Arroyo administration ever since he joined it.

* * *

It is also an old trick of rich and influential prisoners to pretend to be seriously sick as an excuse to be given executive clemency. And that is the trick that convicted rapist, former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos is using to give an excuse to GMA—whom he made to win in his district in Zamboanga in the last elections—to pardon him.

Jalosjos, the excuse goes, has a heart condition and also diabetes and should be released. He used to play tennis every other day but can do it only twice a week now, they say. That's a justification to set free a rapist of a child?

If he can play tennis twice a week, he is in no danger of dropping dead from a heart attack if he doesn't overexert himself. As for his diabetes, a low-carbohydrate diet should be able to control it. In fact, if Jalosjos was content with prison food instead of having his own cook in prison or having rich food from restaurants outside brought to him, he would have had a low-fat, low-cholesterol, low-sugar diet. Good for his heart and diabetes. Prison food is notoriously low in almost everything, but especially in fat, cholesterol and sugar.

"*Baka dito pa mamatay 'yan* (He may just die here)," said cooperative prison officials.

But Jalosjos has been sentenced to two life terms. He is expected to die in prison. He has been convicted of rape—of a child—for which the penalty for poor and less influential convicts is usually death. But because he is a congressman, he got away with two life terms. He has not even served one life term yet and they already want to set him free. He has served only nine years, practically the equivalent of just a slap on the wrist for rapists.

How many poor prisoners have been executed and are awaiting execution for the same offense? So many. Jalosjos was lucky he got only two life terms. In prison, he is treated like a guest, with his own cook, his own cell, a big TV set and other home appliances. He built his own tennis court. And now because GMA won in his district, they want him set free after serving only nine years.

Were it not for alert reporters, Jalosjos' name would have been smuggled in the list of ailing 70-year-olds to be given executive clemency although Jalosjos is only 64 years old.

Don't think that I am being unkind to Jalosjos. My point here is that there should be no double standard of justice, one for the poor and one for the rich. Prison terms for different crimes are made by law to teach the people not to commit the same offenses.

Rape ranks with murder as a heinous crime. Some people think rape is even more heinous than murder. If we allow rapists to get off easily, won't that encourage more rapes?

Don't feel sorry for the criminals. Feel sorry for their victims.

* * *

Another criminally accused person being treated with kid gloves by our justice system is Imelda Marcos. It has been almost 20 years since she and her husband fled to Hawaii to escape angry Filipinos whom they have abused for 20 years. We just marked the 36th anniversary of the declaration of martial law last Sept. 21. It has been many years since charges of kleptocracy have been filed against her. But until now she is still inflicting herself on us. She should have been imprisoned and her ill-gotten wealth forfeited a long time ago. But why is she still out there making fools of all of us? Blame it on the very slow wheels of justice.

But look at Imelda now. She is still trying to hold on to her fabulous pieces of jewelry that the Supreme Court has already decided with finality belong to the State. She is trying to stop their sale at public auction by filing cases in court. And some fool judge may just be stupid enough to issue a restraining order. Some foolish women are already siding with her. Jewelry really does foolish things to women.

On teaching the Nintendo generation

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

IT USED TO BE EASIER TO TEACH THE PUBlic law cases on martial law and human rights. I began teaching law in 1984, the year I became a lawyer, and my students at the University of the Philippines then truly felt what they were studying. Over the next decades, it was no longer enough just to assign the traditional judicial decisions, which are the daily grind of law students. I took to assigning the more literary and moving journalistic accounts (more reader-friendly too); or a 1970s vintage human rights update by the Association of Major Religious Superiors; or a martial law-era autopsy report saying that the "patient" drank a bottle of acid while confined at the V. Luna Hospital. If the topic was comfort women, I'd show a sepia-toned photograph of the aggrieved *lolas* in their teens, their age when they were kidnapped and enslaved.

I do not think this is because today's youth care less, but it's more because their minds work differently. We must not judge them by the metaphors of the grim and determined activists of the 1970s and early 1980s.

First, we have provided them only a sparse record by which to remember the past. Elsewhere in the world, periods of impunity were documented through truth commissions organized by the state, e.g., South Africa, El Salvador or Argentina. We have deliberately avoided the truth, believing it more expedient to forget. There was never any closure, judicial or popular, to that dark chapter in our nation's life, and our collective psyche is forever hobbled by the questions left unanswered.

Second, today's youth may be attuned to their own way of "remembering." Historically, societies have done their remembering through huge public monuments, around which humongous public rallies gather annually to mark important events. The French have their magnificent statues, like Napoleon's giant tomb; we have our own, some of them imposing like Jose Rizal's at the Luneta and Andres Bonifacio's at Monumento, others a bit too literal and unimaginative, like that sculpture of Ninoy falling down the steps to the tarmac. Mao used to have his grand parades at Tienanmen Square, where he mobilized millions in well-choreographed displays of mass control; we have, of course, our own Manila-scale attempts at the Quirino Grandstand.

I doubt if these ways of remembering "connect" with the Nintendo (or Playstation) generation. The sheer passage of time may have reduced the annual September 21 commemoration to just another boring ritual, long on speeches, short on heartfelt meaning. Yet, precisely, the Nintendo generation is impatient with speeches and more attuned to the yearnings of the heart. It has been said half in jest that theirs is the age of "Oprah-fication," when the great public questions of the time are answered in human, personal terms. The goal is to be able to say, as Bill Clinton did, "I feel your pain."

That is why we must explore fresh new ways to make them feel our martial law-era pains. Last year, I brought my kids to the Ayala Museum, where they saw (in addition to the diorama of Philippine history) a documentary on the martial law years. By their questions, I realized that what was "current events" for my generation is classroom history (Araling Panlipunan) to theirs.

But that wouldn't have been a problem for the oldies, because for us, it was okay for history to be boring and distant, nourishment for the mind but not for the heart, something we studied because it would be "asked in the exam." The Nintendo generation is more demanding.

To start with, the oldies were satisfied with books without pictures, all the information presented in linear form, black-and-white text written from left to right, top to bottom. The newbies think in wild vibrant color. If you describe an event, they want to see the photos, not someone else's description of what happened. They want the facts, not someone else's spin-doctored summary. And while statistics are okay, they prefer to hear a person telling his story. The older generation might hem and haw that that story is just one man's, and is therefore biased and personal, but the new generation says, "That's exactly why we want to hear it! That is what makes it authentic!" The older generation searched for objective standards before which the public must bow. The newbies seek personal causes by which they can stand firm before a cold and unforgiving public. Oldies want to be true to a cause, newbies prefer to be true to the innermost self.

The Nintendo generation remembers best through audio-visual media, or what the oldies might see as People Power through PowerPoint. You see, when kids play videogames, they control everything, just by using their thumbs. When at play, a kid lives in that separate universe constructed inside their heads. That is why my kids love watching "The Matrix," and then they turn around and explain it to me.

Recent reports say that our youth wouldn't mind a return to dictatorship, presumably more benign than in the 1970s, while becoming increasingly indifferent to activist elders (or should I say elderly activists) who memorialize the glorious battles in the democratic struggle in times past. The kids know not whereof they speak, but we must tell them more stories, and tell those stories better, if we expect them to remember. The future is in their hands, more specifically, their thumbs. Judge Learned Hand said: "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Local science for large disasters

COMMENTARY

H.T. Goranson

THE EARTH PRODUCES A RELIABLE STREAM of disasters. Some, like AIDS, are chronic; others, like earthquakes or hurricane Katrina, are sudden displays of natural force. In every case, it is expected that a well-financed relief effort will descend from a wealthier region. But importing assistance may not only be less effective; it might actually cause more damage in the long run.

When a tsunami hits, the first impulse is to bring in First World experts. Rescue is the initial priority, followed by ensuring food, shelter and medical aid. It is just a matter of getting things done, and it must be done the most effective way, so the operations occur according to the institutional philosophies of donor countries.

But siphoning the habits of one culture into another during a rebuilding process can trigger societal changes that are almost as damaging as the disaster itself, as happened in small fishing villages in the Philippines in the late 1970s.

In 1978, Typhoon Rita wiped out the fleet of handmade wooden fishing boats in a group of sea-dependent Philippine communities. Relief was fast and effective, consisting first of subsistence aid, followed by "restoration" of the fishing fleet. The old boats, which rotted every few years, were replaced by modern fiberglass versions with small gasoline engines. At the time, this was touted as a textbook case of doing things right.

The fishing economy rebounded and flourished—but only for about 10 years. After that, the entire society collapsed. Over thousands of years, the culture had come to depend on the central role of boat builders. They were the anchor of society, acting in effect as priests, teachers and judges. Subsistence flowed according to their goodwill and was supported by conventions of sharing and trust.

After the relief effort, this complex human balance was replaced by a cash economy, and the power brokers became those who could dole out the rare, precious petrol. An entire culture was effectively destroyed by efficient relief.

This scenario has been repeated over and over in diverse contexts. The first impulse is to solve problems in the most established manner. But, lacking sensitivity to local dynamics, the outcome is severely compromised.

The solution seems simple: create and subsidize small science centers in regions at risk of disaster. The primary objective of these centers would be "normal" science, with missions and profiles that feed from their local context. At-risk regions would develop culturally appropriate ways to deal with the catastrophes most likely to affect them. In addition, local talent would be nurtured in its home context.

This philosophy would benefit places like New Orleans as much as Phuket in Thailand. Indeed, while it might seem as though there would be no problem of cultural transposition in the case of Hurricane Katrina, an examination of the tragedy reveals otherwise.

It has been overwhelmingly observed that the worst-hit people in New Orleans were poor African-Americans living in the city's low-lying districts. To be sure, many of these inner-city residents simply lacked the resources to evacuate easily. But it is beginning to emerge that many also preferred to stay in a social environment that they trusted rather than fleeing to safer, but foreign, surroundings.

Critics also cite the diversion of infrastructure funds and Louisiana National Guard troops to Iraq as contributing causes to the emergency. These factors clearly played a role, but, overall, if a body of scientifically inclined people from the inner city had been involved in flood control and evacuation planning, the consequences of Hurricane Katrina would certainly have been managed more effectively. By contrast, the inappropriateness of transplanting troops from Iraq into an emergency rescue operation is obvious.

The fight against AIDS—a battle that depends heavily on social modification—highlights in perhaps the clearest way the problems that always occur when local culture is ignored. Societal mechanisms simply cannot be adjusted without a crisp, practiced understanding of a culture. And this cannot be merely intuitive. It must be scientific, that is, based on the best methods and models.

For this reason, there should be two points of contact during a catastrophe. Groups of critical thinkers—the "experts"—should be on hand to advise on how to avoid second-order disasters. Even though many of them might not have studied the local culture, they can nonetheless provide guidance that has been informed by the world's most expensive infrastructure. At the same time, relief efforts should be managed by a local science center that is known and trusted by those in danger.

The implications of this approach extend far beyond disaster relief. A robust scientific establishment is the root of any economy, and there will be no real development in the Third World without it. An investment in local science is therefore a direct infusion into a community's growth potential, one that eventually will reward investors with new breakthroughs. After all, nothing is better for innovation than a scientist working outside conventional institutions, solving a problem that will save his or her family.

Project Syndicate

H. T. Goranson is the lead scientist of Sirius-Beta Corp. and was a senior scientist with the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Poor Bert

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

POOR BERT GONZALES. I'M NOT REALLY ALL that surprised that his blood pressure should shoot up after that blistering interrogation he had to endure at the Senate Wednesday.

Before he himself surrendered to the stress, Gonzales had made many senators' blood pressure rise in kind, mainly by his refusal to answer directly the legislators' questions regarding the extent of his authority to enter into a contract with a foreign lobby firm and the identity of the "private donors" who he claimed were going to fund Venable's efforts. I suspect adding to the senators' upset was Gonzales' refusal to take the bait and implicate the President in yet another scandal, one that senators have called "treasonous."

While he might qualify for a medal from his boss the President for being willing to fall on a sword—or in his case amp up his hypertension—Gonzales should really reconsider whether staying on as national security adviser is worth his life, his name or his good health. For a while, Gonzales was valiantly taking on the brunt of the blame for the supposedly cancelled Venable deal, his commander in chief was just as valiantly distancing herself from the decision and from her adviser.

I can imagine how his heart rate and blood pressure might rise with the unsavory task of having to stand up in defense of a boss who has already abandoned him to ignominy. That is not the way to reward such rabid, if misguided, loyalty.

* * *

THIS is a theme that the Black and White Movement, which still has not said "die" on its mission to finally arrive at the truth behind the Gloriagate scandal, has picked up on. In a statement, the group recalled that after the Venable contract hit the headlines, Gonzales said confidently that the President had assured him "not to worry about the funds to pay for the Venable contract (saying that) there's going to be a foreign donor."

Well, Malacañang apparently belatedly realized the frightening implications of the President's personal involvement, if not ultimate responsibility, for the arrangement. Just a day after Gonzales talked to reporters about the "foreign donors," the President, in a TV appearance, denied any personal knowledge of or involvement in the affair, saying that "she does not micromanage contracts, leaving everything to Bert."

As the Black and White Movement comments: "Indeed she did. She's left everything to Bert, including twisting and hanging in the wind to cover up and be held accountable for something he could only have done as an extension of the personality of the President. He has received neither reassurance nor support from the President. He is close to being accused of treasonous behavior. And for what? To serve the interests of a President who stands behind nothing: not her own decisions and policies, not her Cabinet members, not the interests of the country."

In the wake of the President's shabby treatment of one of her closest advisers, the group appealed to the rest of the Arroyo Cabinet, pointing out that "this is what you will get, for thinking your service to the President is service to the country."

To those relatively new in the inner circle, particularly the replacements for the "Hyatt 10," Black and White has this ominous scenario: "You will be asked questions you cannot answer, because of the deviousness of the President you serve. You will be asked to defend policies the true nature of which has been kept from you by the President. You will be held accountable for things the President, and not you, should be held to account. The President serves no one but herself, and is prepared to do any disservice to any person, including members of her own official family, if it serves her interests."

* * *

AT A RECENT get-together of friends on matters political and social, we all agreed that Malacañang had essentially won the public opinion battle in the wake of July 8, when people thought the "tipping point" had been reached in turning the nation against GMA.

The Palace's attack team, led by Mike "Braces" Defensor, quickly got busy painting the resigned Cabinet members and officials, known collectively as the "Hyatt 10," as "traitors" who had been disloyal to their President, betrayed her trust and took advantage of their proximity to power to gather ammunition against her administration.

And Filipinos, we agreed, recoil instinctively against the word "*traydor*" or to the concept of disloyalty. After all, our society has long been built on the foundations of family, where fealty and loyalty are considered prime values.

What was needed, we agreed, was a campaign to turn the tables on the concept of "disloyalty." Shouldn't the "Hyatt 10" be honored instead for being disloyal to the President but loyal to the country and to their principles? What is the greater sin—to stay loyal to a leader who had abandoned her oath and ceased to serve the people; or risk one's position and reputation to stand up for the greater good and for truth?

If the President cannot even "stand by her man (or woman)" in a time of crisis, it's extremely doubtful she would stake her power for such nebulous concepts as the national welfare and honor.

* * *

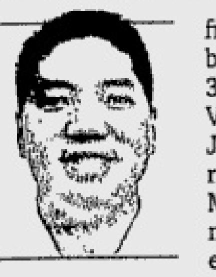
NOTES: Lawyer Jim Lopez, National Book Awards winner for three consecutive years, will be one of the speakers at the "For Better, For Worse: A Complete Guide to Annulment" seminar today at the AIM Conference Center. Lopez will talk on material covered in his book "The Rules of Marriage: Rules of Engagement."

Lopez is (happily) married to Lorna Legazpi, a former Miss Philippines, and they have four children.

For inquiries, call the Center for Global Best Practices at 842-7148 or 0917-9295432 or e-mail bestpractices8888@yahoo.com.

Two historic structures

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

DESPITE A HEAVY DOWNPOUR EARLY YESTERDAY morning, the sun came out during the unveiling of a marker installed by the National Historical Institute at the entrance of the US Embassy chancery building on Roxas Boulevard. A small group of old-timers, like Fr. James Reuter, S.J. and Ms Jessie Lichauco, came to witness the simple commemoration that brought back memories of the now-historic site in the best and worst of times. Surely, old-timers knew the place when it was still the US High Commissioner's residence, a time when the now famous bayside promenade was still known as Dewey Boulevard.

This simple white building—too severe for the baroque tastes of some people—in its beautiful setting on land reclaimed from Manila Bay has been witness to a lot of history. Most Filipinos are familiar with an adjacent building that contains other offices, including that of the dreaded Visa Section that should be called the "Room of Sighs" because it is there, whether a visa is issued or not, that you hear different types of sighs from despair to rejoicing. The chancery or main building is the historic structure whose long story is summarized in an NHI marker that reads:

"This building opened in 1940 to house the offices and residence of the US High Commissioner in the Philippines Francis B. Sayre. During World War II, Japanese Imperial Forces occupied this building until the establishment of the Japanese-sponsored Republic of the Philippines on October 14, 1943 when it became the Japanese Embassy in the Philippines. The US Army's 12th Cavalry liberated the compound on February 20, 1945 following intense fighting during the Battle for Manila. After the war, the still intact ballroom served as the courthouse for the World War II War Crimes Trials of Japanese in the Philippines. Following the United States recognition of Philippine Independence on July 4, 1946 the building became the chancery of the Embassy of the United States of America."

Unlike the previous US chargé d'affaires, Joseph Mussomeli, whom our Vice President, I think, purposely refers to as "Mr. Mussolini," the present charge Daryl Johnson is, to use a Filipino-Spanish term, *simpatico* or *muy amable*. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been quite visible in cultural affairs and museums, leading some people to remark that they have seen more of them in one month than they did of former US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone in the three years he was posted in Manila. Nevertheless, we have to give credit to Ricciardone and former Public Affairs Counselor Ron Post whose interest in RP-US history led to the installation of these markers on embassy buildings in Manila and Baguio.

The US ambassador's residence in Camp John Hay may not be as well-known as the chancery in Manila, but it has a lot of history (and ghosts?) behind it. The marker installed by the National Historical Institute there, as part of the commemoration of the end of World War II in the Philippines, reads:

"This building was completed in 1940 to serve as the summer residence of the US High Commissioner of the Philippines. During World War II, Japanese military and political leaders occupied the residence from December 28, 1941, until April 27, 1945, when Allied Forces and Filipino guerrillas liberated the city of Baguio, forcing the Japanese to withdraw into the surrounding mountains. On September 2, 1945, as the Japanese surrendered to Allied Forces in Tokyo, Commander of the Japanese Army in the Philippines General Tomoyuki Yamashita emerged from hiding in Kiangan to surrender and was brought to Baguio. In this building on September 3, 1945, at 1210 hours, General Yamashita and Vice Admiral Denhici Okochi, Commander of the Japanese Navy in the Philippines, formally surrendered to United States' Forces represented by Major General Edmond H. Leavey, Deputy Commander of the United States Army Forces, Western Pacific. They signed the Instrument for Surrender, which completed the surrender of all Japanese Forces in the Philippines and officially ended the war here. Since 1946, the US Embassy has used the residence for meetings, receptions and staff retreats."

Now the residence is a very comfortable and relaxed place with a fabulous view of the mountains. There are two paintings by National Artist Fernando Amorsolo that adorn the house: a portrait of Gen. Douglas "I shall return" MacArthur and a large historical painting depicting the surrender of Yamashita. Struck by the surroundings or perhaps pressured by a deadline, a rather imaginative (and inaccurate) columnist for another paper wrote that the solid narra buffet tables in the residence dining room was where the historic surrender was signed. Actually, they joined two ping-pong tables together and covered this with a wide tablecloth for the surrender. (Where are these historic relics today? If placed on auction today these ping-pong tables could probably garner a sum equivalent to the fabled Yamashita treasure.)

The United States means different things to different Filipinos in different times. By marking these two structures, we would like to think that Filipinos are slowly knowing and, hopefully, coming to terms with our shared history as we come up to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Philippine-American Friendship on July 4 next year.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Noli and George

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I WAS CHUCKLING AS I READ ABOUT THE US FEDERAL Bureau of Investigation's report on Vice President Noli de Castro, with dire warnings about more economic and political "uncertainties" if he succeeded Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

One passage in the five-page report, dated July 15, was particularly striking: "There is no indication De Castro has much knowledge or interest in foreign policy issues."

It was that part that got me thinking, "Well, I beg your pardon guys, but how much does your president, George W. Bush, know about foreign policy issues . . . or, for that matter, about anything at all in the United States or in the world?"

Searching for words

The US report, apparently based on several meetings and visits with De Castro, claimed that our Vice President was unable to answer many of their questions. Asked about his legislative priorities, the report said they had to "wait patiently as he searched for words."

I guess they're not used to having to wait with Bush, who is quick to answer questions. So eloquent is Bush that there are several Internet sites that specialize in collecting quotable quotes from him. I'm going to share some of these "Bushisms," mainly gathered from the online magazine Slate, as we figure out how he compares with our own Tito Noli.

Before Bush was elected president, he was asked how he was with foreign policy. This was his reply: "The fundamental question is, 'Will I be a successful president when it comes to foreign policy?' I will be, but until I'm the president, it's going to be hard for me to verify that I think I'll be more effective."

He did make it into the White House and has been a source of endless gaffes and laughs. He's called the Greeks "Grecians" and thought "Mexican" was the language spoken in Mexico.

Mere slips of the tongue? Maybe. Bad grammar and syntax? Maybe, as we see in this wonderful Bushism: "Too many good docs are getting out of the business. Too many OB/GYN's aren't able to practice their love with women all across the country."

And what about the time when he asked the visiting Brazilian President Fernando Cardoso: "Do you have blacks, too?"

Some of the Bushisms suggest this man knows little, and the little he knows, he can't think through. We see this, certainly, in his views about the world, simplistically defined in terms of good and evil as we see in this gem of a quote in the Washington Post, May 31, 2000:

"This is a world that is much more uncertain than the past. In the past we were certain, we were certain it was us versus the Russians in the past. We were certain, and therefore we had huge nuclear arsenals aimed at each other to keep the peace. That's what we were certain of. ... You see, even though it's an uncertain world, we're certain of some things. We're certain that even though the 'evil empire' may have passed, evil still remains. We're certain there are people that can't stand what America stands for.... We're certain there are madmen in this world, and there's terror, and there's missiles and I'm certain of this, too: I'm certain to maintain the peace, we better have a military of high morale, and I'm certain that under this administration, morale in the military is dangerously low."

Bush certainly isn't a man of few words. That Bushism was made even before 9/11, which helps us understand why eventually he dragged the United States, and a whole "coalition of the willing," including the Philippines' Ms Arroyo, into a wild goose chase for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Incurious

The US report recounts a visit to Noli de Castro: "We inquired about the biography of (former New York Mayor) Rudy Giuliani sitting atop a small stack of books on De Castro's desk and he said that it was a gift and he hadn't read it."

The insinuation here is that this was a man who won't be able to govern because he doesn't read. But we could ask, too, about George Bush, not just whether he reads, but whether he knows how to read. Watch him deliver his speeches and you'll find he stumbles all the time even with the teleprompter.

In fairness to him, there have been reports that George Bush is dyslexic, which is a reading disorder where you get letters mixed up. But again, one has to ask, dyslexic or not, does this president really care to learn about anything?

Let's get it straight: he does seem to read. In New Hampshire back in 1999, he was asked by reporters about his reading habits and he replied, "I read the newspaper."

Evan Thomas, writing in a recent issue of Newsweek, offers this bit of information: "It is not clear what President Bush does read or watch, aside from the occasional biography or an hour or two of ESPN here and there."

So there, maybe if De Castro had read Giuliani's biography, he would have made a better impression on his American visitors.

No doubt, there's more to the acquisition of knowledge than reading, but I have very real fears that the world's fate lies in the hands of a man who has been diplomatically described in Salon, another online magazine, as "incurious."

Because he has such fixed views of the world, it is unlikely he cares to read anyone or to listen to people other than those who share his views.

The result? Massive incompetence, displayed time and time again in his military adventures and in his bungling on domestic issues, the most dramatic being the disastrous disaster management around Hurricane Katrina. In many other countries, citizens would have demanded his resignation. But Americans seem to be a tolerant and forgiving lot.

Which takes me back to De Castro. We seem ready to live with Ms Arroyo till 2010 because we're so afraid of getting him as president. Maybe there are good reasons for that fear but really now, if someone like Bush could get elected, and re-elected, president of the United States, it pretty much shows that nations will get by, in spite of fools pretending to govern.

But, you might argue: Bush has good advisers. And I could retort, "Noli could get good advisers." But really now, I can't even agree that Bush has competent men and women around him. What he has is a bunch of chicken hawks who evaded military service but now sends off America's young men and women to be slaughtered in Iraq and Afghanistan,

Americans deserve better, and we deserve better. The problem is we seem to have decided "better" means the certain uncertainties of incumbent incompetents.

Something light

This has nothing to do with politics. Tomorrow Dr. Margy Holmes is launching a revised edition of her controversial book "A Different Love" at Powerbooks, SM Megamall. I've been ever so gently persuaded to go and give my thoughts about the book and what's happened in the last 10 years since it was published. That's tomorrow at 3 p.m. Yes, the public's invited. And we can check if Powerbooks has a copy of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," which is said to be Bush's favorite children's book. Well, maybe favorite isn't the right term. It's the only book he reads to children whenever he visits schools.

How to get a 'tsunami of retirees' to move to the Philippines

THE CLAIM THAT THE PHILIPPINES is "the most hospitable, English-speaking (country) in the world" (PDI, 8/9/05) is debatable.

Not debatable is the tsunami of revenue that would follow a sudden influx of retirees here. For example, if only one percent of the 36 million Americans now retired took the Philippines up on its offer—that is, 360,000 retirees each receiving a (US) pension of, say, $15,000 a year—more than $5 billion in new money would begin pouring into the Philippine economy every year.

I'm sure Mexico, Haiti and a dozen other sub-tropical havens in Latin America know how to count, too. Each has nice things to offer so that it can get a bigger piece of the American retirement pie.

Let's face it, almost anywhere the US dollar is worth five times in purchasing power. But it isn't just about money. What gives Latin America a huge advantage over the Philippines, in my opinion, is its proximity to the United States and, therefore, to Medicare-accredited American health care facilities which, in some cases, are just an hour away by plane.

With their health care delivery capability, the world-class medical centers in Manila and Cebu can "qualify" for such accreditation. So say the Medicare insurance powers-that-be in the United States.

The upshot for nearly 100,000 Americans currently retired in the Philippines is either to pay for their health care needs out-of-pocket, or spend 24 hours on a plane to get to the nearest Medicare-approved facility in the United States.

This is a problem that not only discourages more Americans from choosing the Philippines over Latin America. According to INQUIRER business columnist Ernesto Ordoñez, it is also a problem that keeps almost 400,000 Fil-Americans who count on Medicare, from spending their retirement years here.

This is a situation that the Philippine health care community, the government and others need to get on top of, before the "tsunami of retirees"—offering a potential of billions of dollars in new revenue for Filipino doctors, nurses and hospitals, and the Philippine economy, in general—washes up on somebody else's beach.

—**ELLIOTT ANDERSON,**
PO Box 2769, Ozamiz City

Top 600 women?

THE PAID ADVERTISEMENT, "MESSAGE TO the Congressmen: From Over 600 Top Independent Women in Civil Society," which started appearing in the INQUIRER last August, has caught the attention of our group, the Women of Partido ng Manggagawa.

The signatories of the ad clearly belong to a very small group of well-known and affluent women in Philippine society. It is to their best interest that the status quo remains. But not to the majority of poor and discriminated women whose situations have been getting worse each day President Macapagal-Arroyo remains in Malacañang.

The continued rule of the elite in this country has made the lives of poor women an endless struggle with hardships, hunger, poverty and oppression. Their conditions in life will definitely be better off if the government makes significant changes in its economic policies—like higher budget allocations for economic and social services, such as health care, childcare, livelihood programs, etc.

However, the Arroyo administration has stood its ground and has opted to pursue anti-poor policies—EVAT implementation, bigger budgetary allocation for debt servicing at the expense of social services, and the privatization of public utilities such as power and water, among others.

In addition, the political siege that has hounded the Arroyo administration for the past several months now has been left unresolved with the death of the impeachment complaint. The issues of cheating and betrayal of public trust are far superior to the issue of admissibility of evidence and all other technical and procedural issues. Thus, Ms Arroyo does not have any right and duty to serve out a term stolen from the Filipinos. For as long as she squats in Malacañang, the Philippines will never be given genuine respect by the community of nations.

But, indeed, Ms Arroyo has been a real blessing to the likes of the Osmeñas, Valencias, Cojuangcos, Montenegros, Yuchengcos, Pamintuans, Imperials, De Dioses and hundreds of others in "civil society." To the poor majority of women, however, the Arroyo administration has been a never-ending nightmare.

—**JUDY ANN CHAN-MIRANDA,**
secretary general,
Labor Party-Philippines,
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Sincere activists from high society

MANUEL L. QUEZON III'S CARICATURE OF how high society has a new, favorite and fashionable pastime was very disturbing and a sad commentary from a writer I normally respect and admire. (PDI, 9/8/05)

I do not have any idea as to who those dimwits, who talked and acted the way Quezon described in his column, were. I am a *mestiza* and proud to be one. There are many like me who are veterans of Edsa I and Namfrel Makati. We stood side by side with fellow Filipinos from all walks of life. Most uplifting was our solidarity with the poorer barangays of Makati. We were not condescending, and never, never did we punctuate our speeches with half-baked Spanish expressions.

Those who go to demonstrations and attend sessions in Congress do so because they believe strongly in their cause. Those who sign manifestos feel just as strongly about their position.

We all love our country.

I agree with Quezon, however, that the time has come for us to agree to disagree and move on.

—**ISABEL CARO WILSON,**
PO Box 1475, Manila

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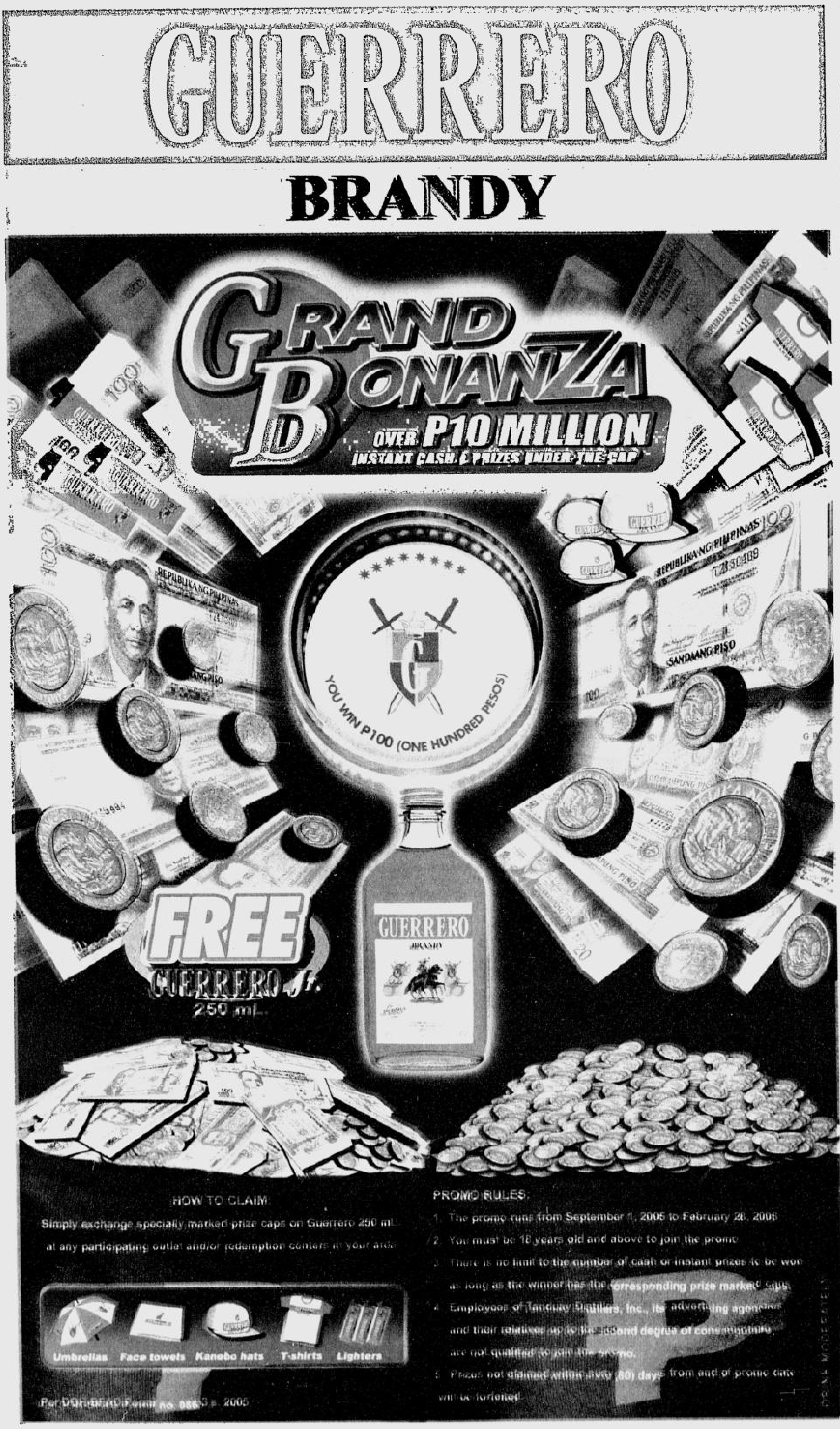

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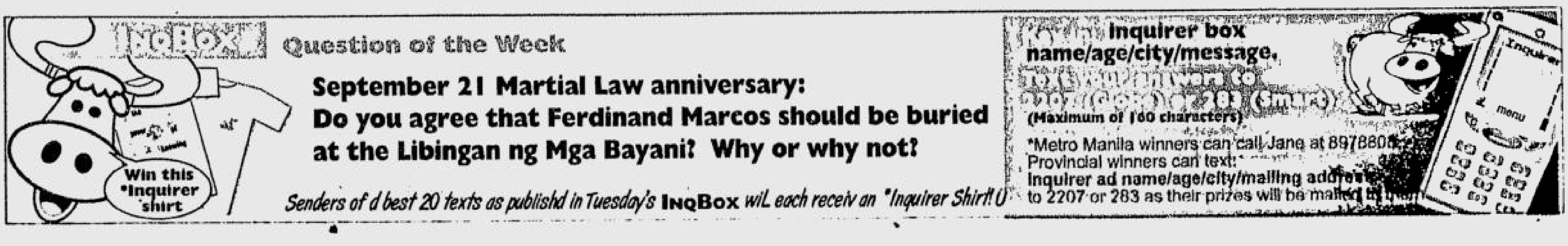

Question of the Week

September 21 Martial Law anniversary:
Do you agree that Ferdinand Marcos should be buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani? Why or why not?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an "Inquirer Shirt!"*

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2005
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'Labuyo' leaves RP with 2 more deaths

A GIRL AND A BOY DROWNED AND TWO PEOPLE were missing in the wake of tropical storm "Labuyo," which gained strength as it blew through the northern part of the country toward southern China, officials said yesterday.

The Office of Civil Defense corrected its earlier report Wednesday that six people had died in weather-related incidents.

The storm was centered about 550 kilometers north of Manila at 4 a.m. Thursday over waters west of the Calayan and Batanes islands. It packed sustained winds of 85 kilometers per hour, and gusts of up to 100 kph.

The storm followed monsoon rains last week that flooded wide areas of Luzon and left at least eight people dead.

One of the worst hit areas was Laoag City, where Mayor Michael Fariñas asked the city council to declare the city in a state of calamity after sections of the city were flooded due to heavy rains brought by "Labuyo."

Fariñas said the state of calamity declaration was needed to authorize city officials to use the P13-million calamity fund set aside for relief and rescue operations.

Reports from the City Disaster Coordinating Council said floodwaters have reached waist-level in Barangay Nangalisan, making the village's road impassable even to buses and trucks.

The Padsan River dike reached its critical level and threatened to flood residential and commercial areas near the city plaza, Fariñas said.

In Cagayan, a four-year-old boy drowned when he fell into a water-filled pothole in their backyard as strong winds and rains spawned by "Labuyo" battered Cagayan on Wednesday.

Reports identified the victim as Vincent Rivera of Barangay Kapakuan in Sta. Praxedes town.

At least 14 villages in Claveria town, eight in Solana, four in Enrile, and two each in Allacapan and Ballesteros towns were flooded after the Cagayan River overflowed.

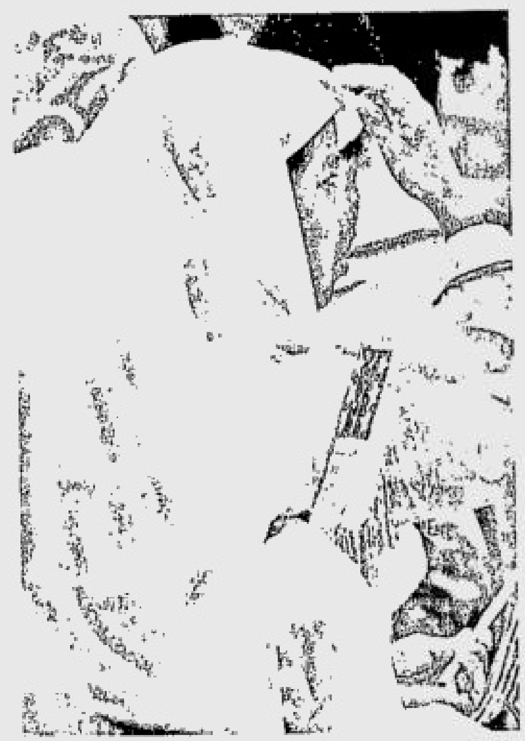
The San Jose Bridge in Baggao town was swamped by floodwaters, forcing commuters to use boats to cross the river there.

In Isabela, National Irrigation Administration officials ordered the release of water at the Magat Dam after water level at the reservoir reached 192.94 meters. The dam's spilling level is 193 meters.

In Pampanga, President Macapagal-Arroyo visited Candaba town on Thursday to inspect the damage brought about by floods there.

Standing at the town's bridge between Barangay Buas and Pasig, Ms Arroyo was briefed by Mayor Jerry Pelayo and regional public works director Ramon Aquino on the calamity situation in Candaba.

The President gave 150 sacks of rice to flood victims. *Cristina Arzadon, Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk with Inquirer wires*



TROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

FOREIGN VISIT
Muslim students await the arrival of US Chargè d' Affaires Daryl Johnson at the Tawi-Tawi School of Arts and Trade in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi, one of the southernmost islands of the country.

Traders warned vs fake raids against piracy

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—OFFICIALS OF THE PHILIPpine National Police (PNP) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have warned that sanctions will be imposed on their personnel found involved in unauthorized raids on schools and Internet cafés to extort money in the guise of going after computer software pirates.

The stern warning was issued by Oscar Embido, NBI director for Western Visayas, and Senior Supt. Charles Calima, Negros Occidental police director, in the wake of reports that raids had been conducted here and in the province against establishments using illegal computer software.

Embido asked owners of Internet cafés to report to his office if they had fallen victims to unscrupulous individuals conducting these illegal raids just to extort money.

"We will act against unauthorized NBI agents conducting raids," he said.

Calima also aired a similar appeal, saying the public should report these illegal raids by "extortionists" so they would be dealt with accordingly.

Embido and Calina said the Manila-based members of the Pilipinas Anti Piracy Team (PAPT) should coordinate with their local counterparts when they conduct raids in the provinces.

"They should also be armed with search warrants and present their identification cards," said Embido.

The PAPT is composed of the NBI, Optical Media Board and the PNP, together with the Intellectual Property Coalition and the Business Software Alliance, an alliance of firms that sell software.

The team has given companies that continue to use, sell or distribute unlicensed software 30 days beginning Aug. 17 to legalize their software.

The deadline ended on Sept. 17, but the BSA said no authorized raids had been conducted by the PAPT, particularly in Negros Occidental.

But reports have been circulating in Western Visayas about the supposed raids conducted by alleged NBI agents and policemen.

Many Internet cafés and computer schools in Roxas City, Capiz panicked and closed shop last week upon learning that the NBI and other members of PAPT would raid their establishments.

A computer shop in Roxas said their establishment has lost hundreds of pesos after they closed operation for three days.

Roxas Mayor Antonio del Rosario called up Senior Supt. Cipriano Querol, Capiz police director, to shed light on the reported presence of NBI and Microsoft representatives in Capiz after several Internet cafés here complained to him.

Querol denied that the NBI agents were in Capiz although he said there should be close coordination with the local authorities and local government units before any raid could be conducted.

But a source at the BSA told the INQUIRER that it had received reports that raids were allegedly conducted in the provinces. *With reports from Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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INTERNATIONAL

Japan resumes forestry aid after lull of 28 yrs

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AFTER A 28-YEAR lull, Japan has resumed its support for major forestry projects in Central Luzon, environment officials said on Wednesday.

The Japanese government funded at least seven community-based reforestation efforts in the region out of its recently approved P250-million grant to the Philippines.

Regidor de Leon, regional executive director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the Enhancement of Community-Based Forest Management Project is the second that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) is assisting after the Philippine-Japan Forest Development Project in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija in 1976.

In the past 14 years, Japan has instead funneled much of its assistance to disaster-mitigation projects in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales, the provinces that were hit hard by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991.

Ricardo Calderon, DENR regional deputy director for forestry, said the training, policy enforcement and information components of the five-year project would be undertaken nationwide until 2009.

Calderon said the project's forest management aspects would be carried out in Central Luzon's seven model sites.

These are 50 hectares in Magalang, 2,000 in Sapang Bato, Angeles City at the boundary of the Clark Special Economic Zone, both in Pampanga; 400 has in two sites in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija; and 174 has in Botolan, 5,000 has in Sta. Cruz and 50 has in Masinloc, all in Zambales.

In a statement, Hideki Miyakawa, Jica chief advisor, said these sites were selected from 22 proposed areas in the region.

These sites, he said, have relative peace and order situation, supportive local governments and active people's organizations.

De Leon said the task of reversing the trend of forest destruction that is linked with poverty required the DENR to forge partnerships with local governments and community organizations, most of which are groups of indigenous tribes of Aetas and upland farmers.

He said the DENR pushed the project because only 45 percent or 433,276 has of 963,120 has of forestlands in the region had adequate forest cover as of 2003.

Under the project, forest management and reforestation come as alternative employment to poor upland residents who are exploited by illegal loggers supplying wood for the local construction and furniture industries.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Quezon folk seek more time to retrieve logs

GENERAL NAKAR, Quezon—Local officials, sash furniture makers, charcoal producers and Church people in the Real-Infanta-General Nakar (Reina) area have collectively appealed to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to extend for another 90 days, or until Christmas season, the temporary suspension of the ban on the movement of forest products.

"Our people are just starting to recover economically and we still have to put up alternative livelihood activities. The rainy season has now started in our area, which will last up to the first quarter of next year, and fishing is very minimal due to big waves and rough seas," said part of the letter addressed to DENR regional executive director Antonio Principe by the Reina Multi-Sectoral Executive Committee on Strayed Wood Stock Retrieval, Utilization and Disposition.

The letter to Prinsipe was handed to Danilo Morales, DENR regional technical director, and Wilfredo Riña, chief, forest resources conservation division, both of DENR-Calabarzon, during a meeting and dialogue here on Wednesday.

Mayors Hernando Avellaneda of General Nakar and Grace America of Infanta and Vice Mayor Wilfredo Peras of Real and local industry leaders attended the meeting.

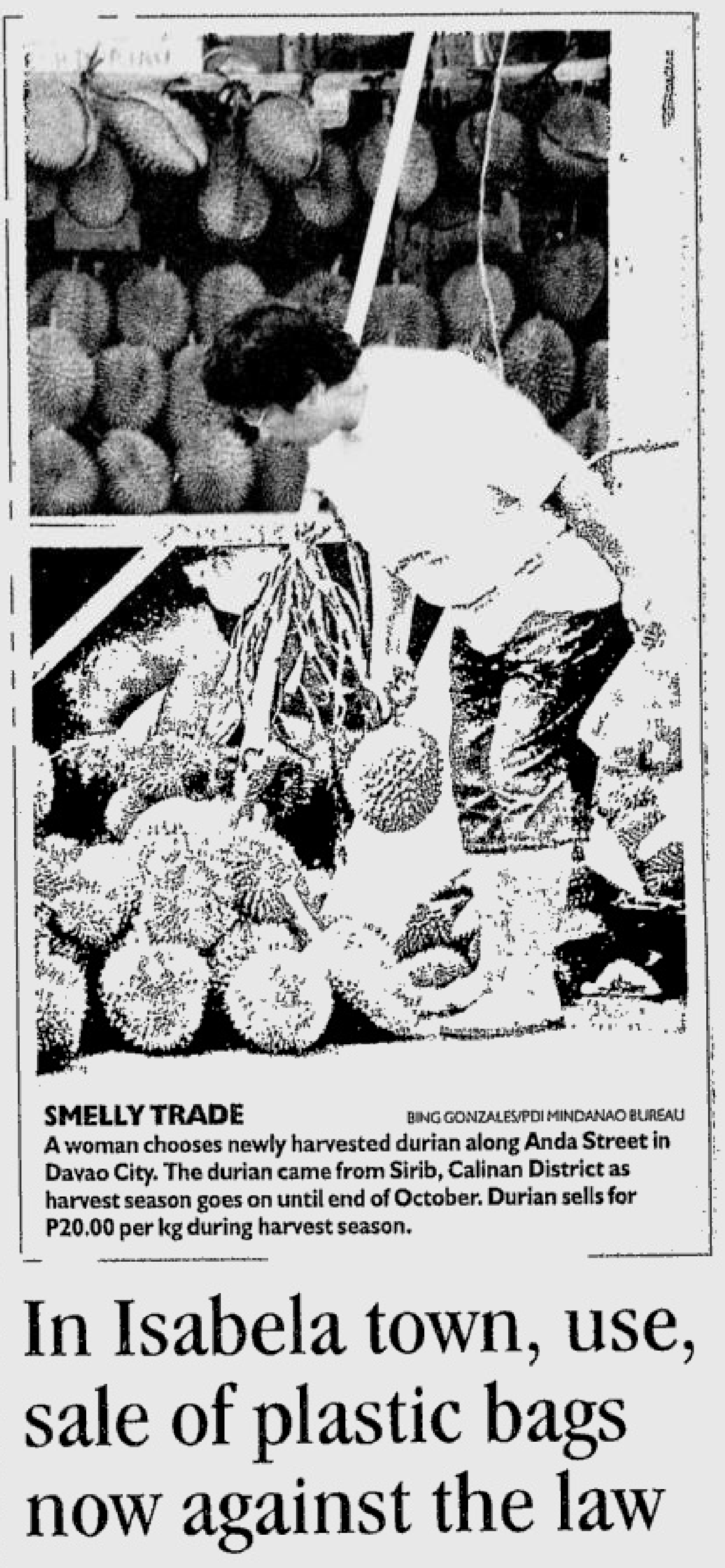
On Aug. 2, Defensor issued a memorandum allowing the retrieval and movement of logs and wood products in Quezon and Aurora for a period of 60 days as part of the government disaster preparedness program.

The covered period of the order will end on Oct. 2.

Antonio Diwa, chief of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office in Real, reported that his office had collected a total of P737,501 forest charges since Aug. 2 from all kinds of forest products that were transported out of the Reina area.

The indigenous Dumagat tribes in Sierra Madre have expressed the most vocal argument for the extension of the suspension period.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



SMELLY TRADE BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

A woman chooses newly harvested durian along Anda Street in Davao City. The durian came from Sirib, Calinan District as harvest season goes on until end of October. Durian sells for P20.00 per kg during harvest season.

In Isabela town, use, sale of plastic bags now against the law

SAN MARIANO, ISABELA—LOOKing for plastic bags? Try going out of town.

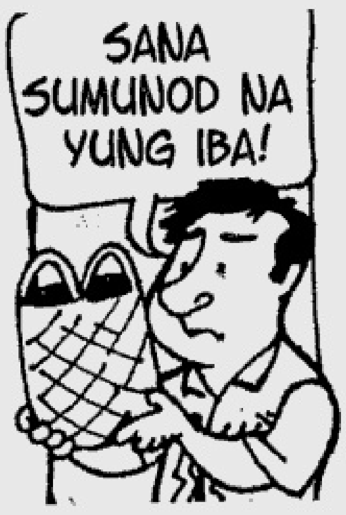
Mayor Edgar Go and the town council here recently approved an ordinance banning the sale and use of plastic bags by all business establishments here.

Local officials said the ban was prompted by deliberations over the health and environmental hazards posed by plastic use.

Councilor Rodolfo Costales, chair of the council's committee on health and environment head, authored the ordinance.

"The use of plastic bags in business establishments contributes heavily to problems on health, sanitation and the environment," Go said.

He said plastic bags, because they are non-biodegradable, clog drainage and sewerage systems, litter the streets and pollute the environment if these were burned and thrown in rivers.


SANA SUMUNOD NA YUNG IBA!

Going native

Go said in place of plastic bags, the town is encouraging residents to use native packaging materials.

Residents, local officials said, may try using the indigenous *ubon* system in packaging or carrying goods.

The *ubon* refers to tying fish and meat using *banban* (bamboo shingles) or rattan, which are abundant in the town.

Go said they are also urging residents to use *bayong* (native woven bag) and paper bags in carrying goods.

He said the town's market administrator and the treasurer were tasked with implementing the ordinance.

Enforcers

Violators will be fined P1,500 for the first offense, P2,000 for the second offense, and P2,500 and/or imprisonment of 15 to 30 days for the third and succeeding offenses, Go said.

San Mariano (pop: 41,309 as of 2000) is a first-class town where illegal logging was rampant in the 1970s and 1980s.

Efforts to reduce the amount of non-biodegradable wastes in the country have proven fruitless so far.

In Metro Manila, authorities are trying to implement a waste segregation program in which biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes would be separated by households before these are picked up by garbage trucks. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NOTICE AND WARNING

TO ALL ALUMINUM-ZINC G.I. DEALERS NATIONWIDE

Notice is hereby given to the public that criminal complaints for unfair competition under Section 168 in relation to Section 170 of Republic Act No. 8293, or the Intellectual Property Code, has been lodged against the directors and officers of Sonic Steel Industries, Inc. ("Sonic Steel") including William Ong and Anthony Ong, President and Vice President, respectively, of Sonic Steel. Also charged with unfair competition is Doris C. Ong, the registered proprietress of Taisan Commercial and Treasurer of Sonic Steel.

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With respect to matters contained in this Warning Ad, interested parties may contact:

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NDF orders increased offensive vs gov't

OZAMIZ CITY—THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC Front (NDF) in Mindanao called on communist rebels to launch more offensive actions against government troops.

"We ask the NPA (New People's Army) units in Mindanao to launch widespread and intensive tactical offensives in the entire island against legitimate military targets," Jorge Madlos, NDF spokesperson, on Wednesday said in a statement.

He made the call after the prospects of the resumption of the peace talks continue to dim.

The NDF withdrew from the negotiating table when the United States branded the Communist Party of the Philippines as a terror organization.

Madlos, also known as Ka Oris, also urged soldiers, policemen and militiamen "to extend their sympathy and support to the people's movement ... in whatever manner and form."

Madlos said the offensive actions are in support of the nationwide effort to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said there was a need to speed up Ms Arroyo's removal from office because of her "undeclared imposition" of martial law while at the same time gathering "enough muscle and justification" to formally declare one.

Oris said the NDF will vigorously seek her ouster from power.

He said the effort to oust Ms Arroyo has now turned into an "intensifying fight." Oris said that a military rule can never prop her regime "that is bound to collapse anytime now."

Comparing the situation that brought about the declaration of martial law in 1972 with the current political development, Oris said the same conditions "are persistently manifesting" today, some of which are "even worse in many respects than during the martial law years."

Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Truck firms urged to use GPS as means to thwart highway robs

MAGTULUNGAN TAYO!

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The Calabarzon police office has asked the association of trucking companies in the region to immediately install global positioning system (GPS) gadgets in their trucks to thwart hijacking and highway robberies, a police official said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, operations chief of the Calabarzon police, said that although the number of reported hijackings had declined in the past months, the threat was still high.

He said during a meeting with the truckers' group based in Calabarzon on Tuesday, the advantages of putting up GPS units in delivery trucks was discussed lengthily.

Once installed, he said, the GPS could show the exact location of trucks at any given time.

Some systems, he added, could even tell "if the driver is sleeping with the aircon of his truck on."

Magtibay said that as a gateway to southern Luzon, Visayas and even Mindanao via the roll on-roll off system, thousands of trucks are using the major thoroughfares of Calabarzon everyday.

"If in case a truck is taken by criminal elements or during emergency, the police and its owner can easily detect where the truck is headed. That way, we can dispatch our police units to go after the truck at once," Magtibay told the INQUIRER.

He said despite the availability of such technology in the country, the number of trucking companies that started using GPS in their units is still negligible.

The most common reason cited by companies, he said, was the supposed expensive prices of GPS units available in the market.

"But acquiring GPS is obviously much cheaper than losing your truck and its cargo. That would cost millions for businessmen," he said.

Magtibay said aside from recommending the use of GPS, the police were also actively implementing the issuance of pass cards. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HONORABLE SENATOR JUAN PONCE ENRILE

Dear Senator Enrile,

We are grateful to you for taking up the cudgel for the used vehicle rebuilding industry. We are small Filipino businessmen who only want to do business in our own country. Unfortunately, a sector dominated by foreigners would want to kill our fledgling business right in our own country.

Mr. Senator, how lucky are the Filipino entrepreneurs and workers who started their small industry in Port Irene, Cagayan. Their senator is protecting them. Unfortunately, we in Subic are not only left to fend for ourselves. **Contrary to the stand of your fellow senator that our business is illegal**, the House of Representatives, thru the Committee on Transportation and Communication, and the Committee on Trade and Industry, issued Committee Report No. 2157 which ruled that "No Pertinent Law and Existing Law is violated by the bringing into the Subic Freeport and Special Economic Zone of right-hand-drive vehicles or by converting them into left-hand-drive as long as the conversion is made within the said Freeport Zone and in a facility accredited by the SBMA".

Mr. Senator, it is we who started and developed this industry. We have not asked for any incentives from our government. We merely ask that we be allowed to survive. But we have now started exporting rebuilt units to other countries, an achievement we can be proud of.

The vehicle rebuilding and auctioneering industry not only employs direct workers such as mechanics, electricians, tinsmiths, painters, drivers and upholstery makers, indirectly, they cause the employment of workers not only in the supplier industry such as parts and supplies, but also the downstream industry of fish, vegetable, meat, and rice traders who can only afford to buy second hand pick ups, vans and trucks. Even construction companies cannot afford to buy brand new dump trucks at P7 Million but are able to buy used units at P650,000 only. All together, they employ 120,000 workers.

Even countries such as Chile, Russia, Vietnam, New Zealand, Dubai, and lately England import used vehicles. Are we richer than these countries that we have to force our countrymen to buy only brand new units?

The car assemblers say our activities should not be allowed in Subic or anywhere else because they foster smuggling, corruption and tax evasion. By the same logic or illogic, should their activities also be stopped because they also import parts and completely built-up units? Most of their certificate of registration does not indicate the certificate of payment number and the amount paid. They bring in "Semi-knocked down" vehicles when in fact only the tires and batteries are added. Thus, they pay only 3% for completely built-up units. We pay cash for duties and taxes while they are on "open account". Has the government checked how much they have liquidated?

In the spirit of equality and fair treatment, we should be allowed to co-exist with the car assemblers. Where, but only in our country, are it's citizens being discriminated against?

God bless you and our country!!!

The Used Vehicle Rebuilding and Auctioneering Industry of Subic

Paid Adv't.

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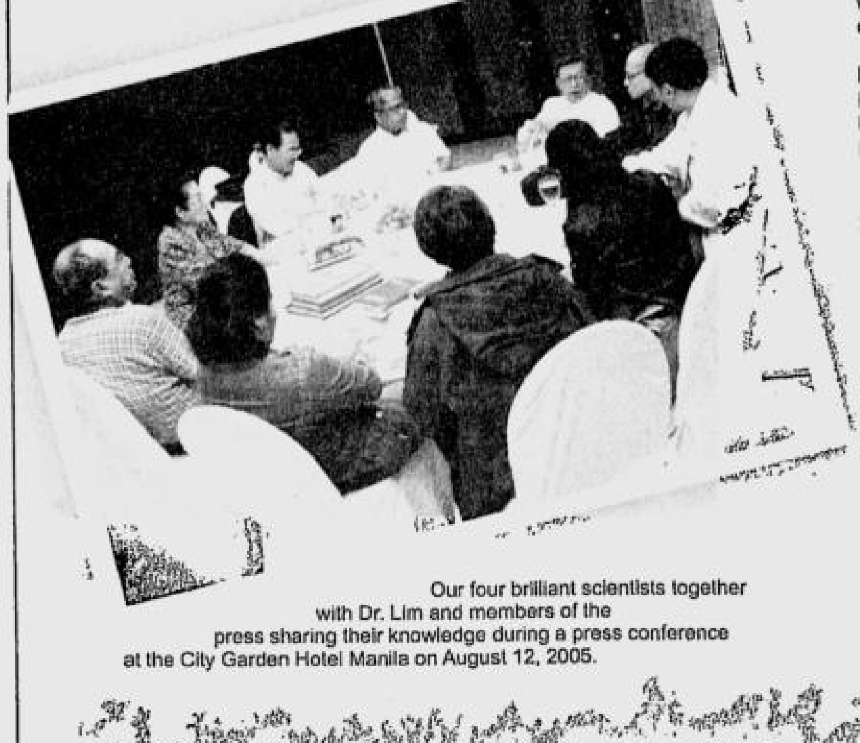

Our four brilliant scientists together
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press sharing their knowledge during a press conference
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In recognition for their outstanding achievements in their respective field of scientific endeavors,
the **LEL- EDF** proudly honors these four unsung heroes of our country.
After all, they deserve to be serenaded by the music of our deep gratitude and appreciation.

Dr. Prudencia V. Conlu

Ichthyologist/Marine Biologist

Dr. Prudencia V. Conlu currently holds the position as Director of the Research Program for Nova Bio-Science, Inc. at the Science and Technology Park in U.P. Visayas, Miagao, Iloilo. Professor Prudencia V. Conlu is known for authoring "Guide to Philippine Flora and Fauna" for which she received the Likas Yaman Award and a Citation Award. Aside from receiving a Professorial Chair Award from U.P., Dr. Prudencia V. Conlu also garnered the "Most Outstanding Teacher Award" from Metrobank Foundation. Her most treasured achievement is the establishment of a Flora and Fauna Museum in the Visayas which she co- founded. As an ichthyologist, Professor Conlu discovered 300 fish species in the Philippines; doing extensive work on another 150

Dr. Roberto E. Coronel

Horticulturist/UP Professor Emeritus

In recognition of his outstanding productivity and creativity as a scientist, writer, editor, teacher, extensionist and community leader in fruit crop breeding, asexual propagation, production and genetic conservation. The comprehensiveness and high quality of his research activities and outputs in fruit crops have gained prestigious national awards and international recognition, and have resulted in increased productivity of major national and regional fruit crops as well as commercialization of underutilized and exotic species, thereby benefiting fruit growers throughout the country Dr. Coronel is considered as the "Sherlock Holmes" of plants.

Dr. Westly R. Rosario

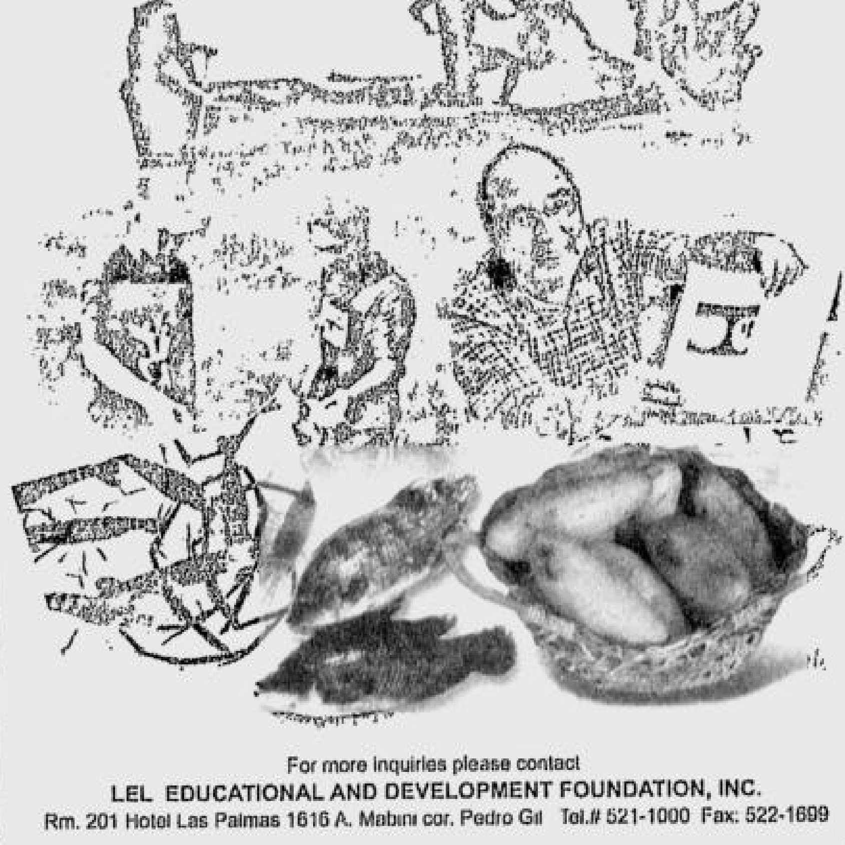
Aquaculturist/Inventor

A Doctor of Fisheries Technology and Rural Development, Dr. Westly R. Rosario is a recipient of the Gawad Kagalingan Award for Research for valuable leadership which enabled the NIFTDC to become the leading research and development center for the breeding and propagation of important aquaculture species in Pangasinan and elsewhere in region 1, expanding from oysters to milkfish, tilapia, ulang, dojo, catfish on commercial quantities which gave significant impact to the local aquaculture industry. Aside from sharing his expertise on how to raise backyard fisheries, Dr Rosario is the leading Filipino scientist who will pioneer the successful breeding of the Ludung fresh water fish to prevent it from extinction.

Dr. Hernani G. Golez

Entomologist/Agriculturist

Dr. Hernani G. Golez hopes to see that the Mango Industry will provide every Filipino a year round supply of fruits at an affordable price and improvement of the socio-economic status of the poor by creating more jobs, increasing income and better health. His field of expertise involves crop protection of tropical fruits particularly (mango and cashew). Not to mention culture and management of tropical fruits (mango and cashew). Dr Golez is the leading Filipino entomologist who was able to produce and release a sterile male fruit fly in the island of Gumaras in order to stop its widespread infestation. Thus, ensuring an abundant supply of pest-free and world-class Philippine mango. Due to the success of eliminating the fruit fly from Gumaras, Philippine Mango can now be exported to the U.S. & Australia from that island.



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'Injustice' drove Jarque to join communist rebels

RETIRED BRIG. GEN. RAYMUNdo Jarque, father of the late Army Capt. Rene Jarque, defected to the New People's Army on Oct. 10, 1995 because he doubted he would get justice from the courts regarding six cases that had been filed against him.

The 1961 Philippine Military Academy graduate was accused in 1991 by Danilo Vergara and Enrique Marivalles of issuing orders to kill them in Bacolod City, allegedly because they were associated with the businessman who had filed charges of graft, robbery and qualified theft against Jarque and other officers.

The Sandiganbayan dismissed the attempted murder case last June. The Supreme Court dismissed last year the cases filed by businessman Magdaleno Peña. He made the accusations after Jarque and other officers had followed a court order to evict Peña from his grandmother's property.

Jarque was also accused of attempting to ambush Aniano Desierto in 1993 before the latter was appointed Ombudsman, and of stealing P650,000 worth of prawns.

He later became National Democratic Front consultant for the March 1996 peace talks in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Jarque is currently working for a Philippine National Oil Co. subsidiary.

During the necrological rites for his son last month, he asked military leaders to introduce reforms and to disobey immoral orders from politicians. *Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research (Source: PDI Archives)*

US deports Jarque and wife

From page A1

las/Fort Worth International Airport in Texas for his links to the communist-led National Democratic Front.

The NDF is on Washington's list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Jarque signed an agreement to be deported immediately to avoid having to go through lengthy deportation proceedings. Biazon and Jarque were classmates at the Philippine Military Academy, from which they graduated in 1961.

"My main concern is the state of health of the wife of retired General Jarque, who requires a kidney transplant," the senator said.

The couple, he said, had flown to the United States to seek medical treatment for Xenia.

While being interviewed by the INQUIRER, Biazon said the retired general and his wife were on a Korean Airlines flight, which is expected to arrive in Manila at 9:30 a.m. today.

The couple spent Tuesday night at the Euless City Jail, a detention facility for common criminals, and were released on Wednesday morning to take a flight back to Manila.

"We decided to leave rather than file an appeal and remain in detention while they (US officials) decide our fate," Jarque told the INQUIRER.

When Jarque spoke to the INQUIRER at 10 a.m. yesterday, he and his wife were about to board a plane bound for Los Angeles, where they would take a flight to the Philippines via Korea.

But Gilberto Asuque, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), said the Jarques were expected to be back in Manila by 10:50 tonight. The Jarques purchased tickets for a return trip via Korean Airlines flight KE 621, Asuque said.

Grandchildren visit

According to a report to the DFA from Philippine consul general in Los Angeles Marciano Paynor, the couple's detention was "due to General Jarque's inclusion on the US terror watch list for his prior affiliation with the communist-led National Democratic Front."

The Jarques' daughter, Melissa Cunanan, and grandchildren were allowed to visit the detained couple in the afternoon of Sept. 21 prior to their return flight to Manila, according to Paynor.

US Embassy in Manila spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop denied Jarque had been arrested, but said privacy rules prevented him from giving more details of the former general's entry into the United States.

"Where he is? I don't know," Lussenhop said. But Lussenhop said Jarque was not in US detention.

Jarque said he would ask the DFA to lodge a diplomatic complaint against the United States for the treatment he and his wife got from American immigration officials.

"I told the immigration officials that I was no longer a member of the NDF. I am a consultant for the NDF in the peace process," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview shortly before boarding his flight back to Manila.

Arrogant

But he said the immigration officials were "*suplado* (arrogant)" and would not listen to him. They would not even let him call his daughter Melissa, who had invited them to visit her in Texas for her 33rd birthday to take their minds off the recent death of their son, retired Capt. Rene Jarque.

He pointed out that the incident was traumatic for them as they only went to the United States to visit their daughter.

Jarque, 67, headed the Army's 3rd Infantry Division on Negros Island in 1991-92.

In October 1995, he defected to the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, to protest what he called trumped-up charges filed against him for the 1991 theft of prawns by a businessman.

In March 1996, Jarque surfaced as a consultant for the NDF panel in the peace talks with the government.

PNOC consultant

He became less active in the talks after the government and the rebels signed an agreement on human rights in 1998. In 2001, he became a security consultant for Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp.

The charges filed against him by the businessman were dismissed by the Sandiganbayan on June 21, 2005.

Jarque said he and his wife arrived at the Dallas airport at about 10 a.m. on Tuesday but they were stopped and brought by immigration officials to a holding area.

Jarque said he asked the immigration officials to release his wife since she had nothing to do with the NDF but they would not listen.

The couple were held at the holding area until the evening when the immigration officials transferred Jarque and his wife to the Euless City Jail, about 8 km from the airport, where they were kept in separate cells.

How they found out

Jarque said he told US immigration officials that they preferred to return to Manila rather than wait in jail for US officials to decide if they could stay in America.

Fortunately, he said, there was an available flight yesterday. If not they might have had to spend another night in jail.

The retired general said he did not know how the immigration officials got wind of his arrival in Dallas.

He, however, suspected that the Federal Bureau of Investigation might have been monitoring his movements and alerted the immigration officials in Dallas.

Another possibility was that the US Embassy in the Philippines knew of his departure from Manila and alerted the immigration people in Dallas, he said.

Jarque said his detention was apparently due to the strict security measures imposed by the US Department of Homeland Security after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

In 2002, the US government added the CPP-NPA to its list of foreign "terrorist" organizations.

Biazon said the Philippine government should look into the matter so a similar situation would not happen again.

No problem in RP

"Jarque is not facing any problems in the Philippines and the government should make an effort to have him removed from the terrorist list," he said.

The senator also said the DFA should look into why Jarque was issued a US visa only to be turned back upon reaching American soil.

Biazon recalled that when he was a government panel consultant, he sat across from Jarque, then an NDF consultant, during peace negotiations in Utrecht, the Netherlands, several years ago. He, however, said he was not aware of any pending case against him.

NBI and Homeland security

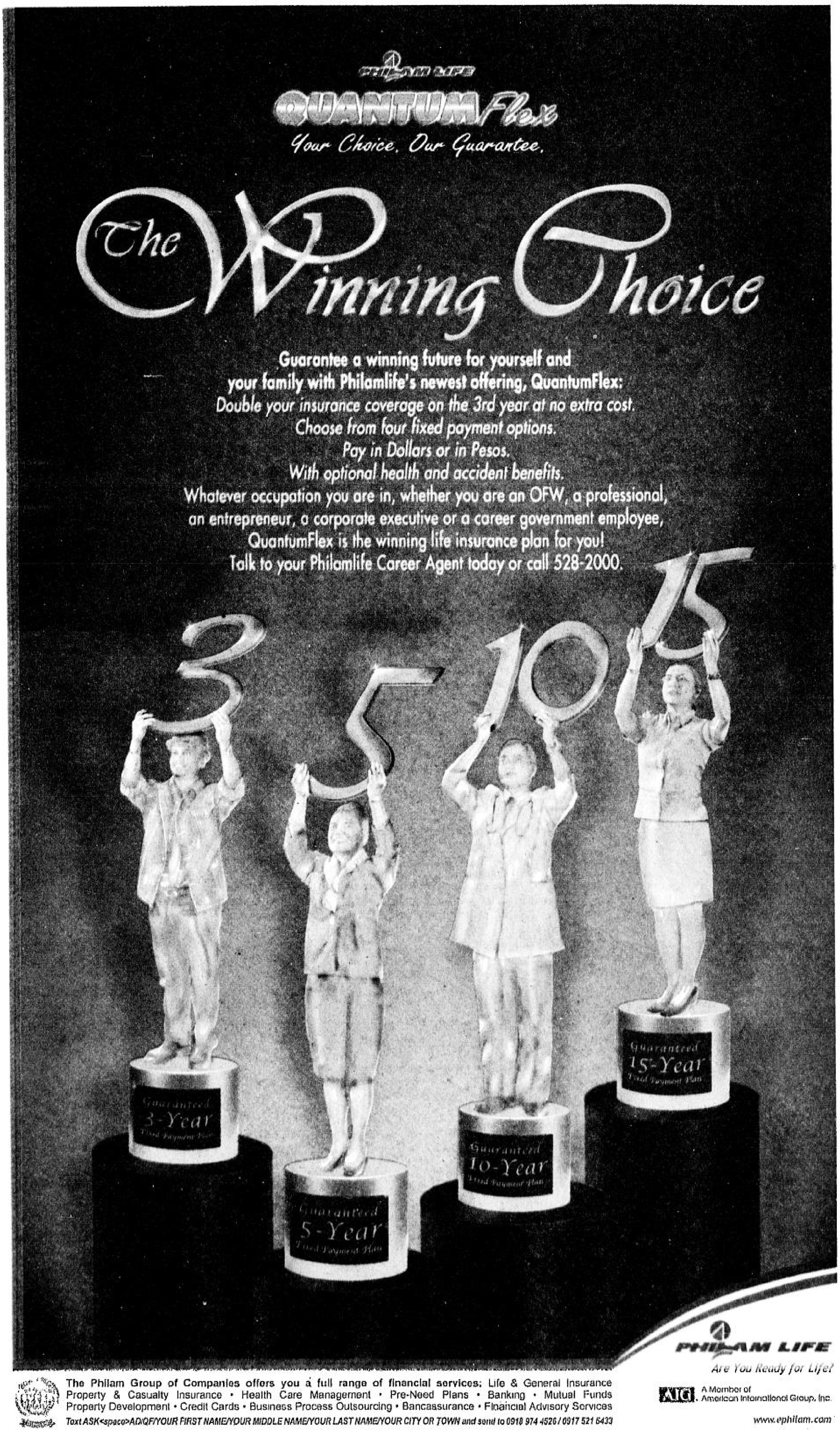
The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will conduct a record check on Jarque for possible action upon his return to the Philippines today, NBI spokesperson Auralyn Pascual said yesterday.

"We would review if the former Army general has standing warrants of arrest," Pascual told reporters.

Pascual added, "We have also communicated with the US Department of Homeland Security with regard to the confirmation of the deportation."

The NBI spokesperson said Jarque went to the United States on Sept. 20 with his wife but was questioned by the immigration counter at the Dallas Airport in Texas regarding his affiliation with the New People's Army (NPA).

"When Jarque admitted that he was identified with the NPA, he was immediately deported through an airport-to-airport arrangement," Pascual said, adding that the NPA is considered a terrorist group in the United States. ***With reports from Margauz Ortiz, TJ Burgonio and Volt Contreras***



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GMA: The tough gets going

From page A1

ple and that undermine the rule of law," she said.

In a speech before 15,000 members of the League of Barangays holding a regional meeting at Clark, Ms Arroyo appealed for help in reaching out to her critics.

"Those who will accept my call for unity, they're welcome. But those who won't and would continue to disrupt government, we, from the top to the barangay officials, will enforce the rule of law," she said to warm applause and cheers at the Expo Pilipino's Freedom Ring.

The officials represented the 3,101 barangays in Ms Arroyo's home region of Central Luzon, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

Ms Arroyo began her 30-minute speech, mostly in Filipino, by congratulating the league for convincing Congress to approve the rescheduling of the barangay elections from October this year to October 2007.

She also thanked them for "demonstrating resolve in dealing with the challenges in the political system."

Unwavering focus needed

"The future of our country lies in the unwavering focus to apply the rule of law and the future of our country also lies in our capacity to fight poverty and sufferings," Ms Arroyo said.

"We will achieve nothing if we shall allow those who sow disruption to disrupt us," the President said.

Instead of wrangling, she urged the barangay leaders to help her in establishing three million small enterprises that would create three million jobs and start two million agribusinesses.

"WE cannot let this continue."

The President announced that the growth rate for exports rose to 11 percent despite the slump in the world market. The peso, according to her, was strong in spite of the government's ballooning fuel import cost.

The unemployment rate, on the other hand, dropped to 7.7 percent, which is smaller, she said, than Germany's.

Ms Arroyo said her administration was now on its second wave of reforms for economic and political development.

"It demands double the energy, double the discipline and will at a time when we are held back by the constraints in the global environment and held back by such a degenerated political system," she said.

Militants denounce policy

"What the people want is a government that responds to their needs. Let's work together to fix our political system. Let's have more power, more capacity, more wealth in the hands of the people," she said.

Militant groups denounced the administration's get-tough policy.

"If martial law did not prevent people from asserting their rights, how much more this," said Bayan Secretary General Renato Reyes, echoing a general left-wing sentiment. "People will always create ways to circumvent this kind of intolerance ... This will be challenged on all fronts."

On Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government was enforcing the "rule of calibrated preemptive response in lieu of maximum tolerance" following intelligence reports that anti-Arroyo forces would continue their destabilization moves until the end of the year. He said police would strictly enforce the "no rally, no permit" policy.

Explaining Malacañang's announced policy on protests, Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police, said it did not differ much from "maximum tolerance."

"It means the police will not just break up a protest. It means we will negotiate, and we will show step by step how restraint is employed," he said.

If protesters could not produce a rally permit, they would be requested to disperse, he said.

If they refuse to do so, the police will use "calibrated force" to disperse them, he said.

Malacañang's order has not altered that, Querol said. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Luigi A. del Puerto, Blanche S. Rivera and Alcuin Papa*

US report details coup plotters' July meet

From page A1

chance of disgruntled AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) elements successfully mounting a coup, but this reality did not prevent them from trying to do so."

It was apparently referring to the "Oakwood mutiny" of July 28, 2003, wherein junior officers took over a building of serviced apartments in the heart of Makati City's central business district.

'Militics'

The report, one of several supposed files of the US government obtained by the INQUIRER, showed that American agents were able to monitor a meeting of military plotters and to learn how potential recruits were being indoctrinated.

It is believed to be among the estimated 100 documents downloaded by Filipino-American intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo from US Federal Bureau of Investigation files, for which he is facing espionage charges along with former Philippine National Police Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino.

The report said the "clandestine meeting" included a lecture on "militics," or the link between military might and politics, and how this had supposedly been used by the Arroyo administration to the disadvantage of the AFP.

"[What was stressed were the] inequities within the branches of the Philippine military, specifically citing higher pay for police than military officers and differences in both policies and compensation among military officers," it said.

The report said that the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency was challenged at the meeting, and that a call was made for "change, even violent change."

'Be prepared'

"[Another point made was] the need to support the country, professing that allegiance to country was different [from] support for the government," it said.

The chair of the meeting encouraged the active officers "to be prepared to respond by abandoning their posts and announcing their defiance of government control when the time comes," according to the report.

It said "a nebulous plan" was presented, "to effect chaos and mutiny, allowing the establishment of a governing council led by responsible leaders."

The report said US Embassy officials had spoken with then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu and were told that there were indeed "reports of grumbling in the military involving junior officers."

"Abu acknowledged a 'gap' between junior and senior officers, but said he did not think there was a serious problem despite the current political situation," it said.

The report was prepared after the worst of the political crisis to buffet the Arroyo administration—which included the resignation of six Cabinet members and four key government officials—occurred on July 8.

On the same day, former President Corazon Aquino and Senate President Franklin Drilon, both former allies of Ms Arroyo, called on her to step down.

'Itching for action'

The July 30 report also mentioned a rumor, "peddled by an opposition fringe activist," that a new group of young officers might be "itching for action, 'with or without civilian participation.'"

It said: "Arroyo and members of her team have asserted that the opposition is making charges relating to 'jueteng' and the [Hello Garci] tapes as part of a wider destabilization plot. Meanwhile, Malacañang has not proffered solid evidence that any plot is actually under way, nor what its time frame might be, although security forces claimed that some retired officers were involved in 'active recruiting' for a destabilization plot..."

In a June 2 report attributed to then US Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli, the US Embassy identified two groups looking to oust Ms Arroyo—one made up of field-grade and junior officers, and the other, of "flag officers."

"The volume and frequency of rumors that a military coup to oust Arroyo is imminent have increased," the June 2 report said.

It was only in the July 30 report, however, that the US Embassy said it had taken precautionary steps in the event of a coup attempt.

'Common fare'

US Embassy documents in the possession of the INQUIRER, dated as early as February 2005, have mentioned coup reports and rumors, and dismissed these as "routine."

"We recognize, however, that rumors of coup plots are pretty common fare these days," said an embassy report dated April 14.

It appeared that the US Embassy had been monitoring coup talk since early this year, when the political crisis had yet to be triggered by allegations of receiving jueteng payola against members of the First Family and the "Hello Garci" tapes.

"A few fringe politicos have regaled us with innuendo about plots to seize power. There is a lot of such talk on the streets, and it has caught the attention of the embassy," the April 14 report said.

It said that during discussions on political stability, Ms Arroyo seemed to take the coup threats seriously.

GMA conduct

"[The President] expressed no doubts about the credibility of these coup threats. Arroyo also made mention of previous, apparently inaccurate, reports that had claimed destabilization efforts were imminent," the report said.

"Arroyo appeared to listen closely to the opinions of Executive Secretary Eduardo [Ermita] and Defense Secretary Avelino 'Nonong' Cruz when the Cabinet debated threats to the administration," it said.

From the April 2 report, it appeared that US agents were closely monitoring not only coup threats but also the conduct of the President's meetings with her Cabinet.

Gee, thanks, Uncle Sam; lucky pols mighty pleased

From page A1

ed in a May 10 report filed by political officer Andrew MacLearn.

Senators Manuel "Mar" Roxas, Richard Gordon and Ralph Recto admitted to being somehow flattered by the positive assessment in the report.

But they quickly added that they did not give much thought to how the Americans had been sizing them up.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, son of ousted President Joseph Estrada, responded with a hearty laugh to the assessment that he and his half-brother, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, could make a run for the presidency on account of their father's enduring popularity.

"It's not for me but for the Filipinos to decide," said an apparently tickled Jinggoy. "All presidents believe it's destiny."

At any rate, he said, it was also "too early to decide" whether he would seek reelection or run for a higher office.

"Of course I'm happy that despite my father being in jail for four years, his popularity has not waned and has even improved," he said.

Roxas made a joking reply when asked about the assessment that he was "well-placed" for the 2010 presidential race based on his high name recall, his wealth and other factors, including his girlfriend, "fashionable media star" Korina Sanchez.

"Thank you," he said. "Now maybe they will approve my visa recommendations."

The former congressman and trade secretary also said running for president in 2010 was "still too far [to think about]."

Gordon, a neophyte senator, liked being assessed as someone who "[got] things done" and who was "not afraid to get his hands dirty."

"I feel good about that in the sense that it justifies my family," said Gordon, a former Olongapo mayor, first chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority after the pullout of the US military bases, and ex-tourism secretary.

But he said this accolade and the numerous awards he had received as a public official were fleeting.

"It's also good to be patted on the back once in a while, but what is important is you work hard," he said.

Gordon said it was unfair for him to be described merely as pro-US bases, or as an "American boy."

"I am not afraid of anyone, even Gloria (President Macapagal-Arroyo)," he said. "I have an American name and I'm proud of it, but [the Americans] know I can also tell them off."

Gordon said he had yet to make up his mind on whether to seek reelection or a higher office.

"But I'm humbled by the fact that money is a problem," he said.

Picking brains

Recto, another neophyte senator, was listed as a rising leader who was "driven and charismatic" and had a potent weapon in the person of his wife, popular actress and Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos.

"That's flattering, but flattery aside, will I give it much thought," Recto said.

He said some US Embassy officials visited him at his office a number of times to discuss mostly economic and tax matters.

But he said he also questioned them on many issues: "They pick [my] brains and I pick their brains."

Recto said he was also still undecided about seeking reelection in 2007. "I'm afraid of the cost," he said.

Shrugging it off

Sen. Manuel Villar, described as "paint[ing] himself as an independent thinker" whose "nationalist posturing" could pit him against certain US interests, shrugged off the report and said he was "not saddened" by it.

He said he considered it "a great honor" to be a nationalist.

He also professed disdain at what the Americans said about him: *"Hindi ko pinag-iiintindi yang mga Amerikano."*

Villar, president of the Nacionalista Party, said he had spoken with some US officials on certain occasions but was not agog over their visits to his office during busy days.

The senator once had an unpleasant experience with a Chinese ambassador, whom he threw out of his office for lecturing him on the disputed Spratly Islands.

A savvy businessman and politician, Villar is also considered presidential timber.

He and his wife, Las Pinas Rep. Cynthia Villar, are owners of a real estate empire and are the wealthiest couple in Congress.

Gonzales says Senate set him up

From page A1

"The position of the senators at a high table, while he was seated looking up at them, made him feel he was being prosecuted," she said.

The 58-year-old Gonzales had been summoned to explain the deal he signed on July 25 with a US lobby group, Venable LLP, to seek American funding for President Macapagal-Arroyo's initiative to amend the Constitution.

The P50-million agreement for one year has been roundly criticized. Critics said it was an invitation for foreigners to intervene in a sovereign undertaking. They said the funding was questionable.

For failing to provide satisfactory answers, the senators cited Gonzales in contempt and ordered him detained. At the end of the hearing, Gonzales suffered from hypertension, prompting his hospitalization at the Philippine Heart Center.

Floralde said Gonzales seemed "cheerful and calm" when she visited him yesterday but doctors were still monitoring his heart palpitations.

The media were barred from talking to Gonzales.

Senators 'rude'

Scores of supporters from Aksyon Sambayanan and Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) held a vigil outside the hospital, denouncing the "rudeness" of the senators to Gonzales.

PDSP spokesperson Danny Isiderio said the senators should have respected the "confidential nature" of the information being asked of Gonzales.

Isiderio said the senators seemed to be fishing for answers they already knew, and were angered when Gonzales did not give it to them.

After coming down hard on Gonzales, some senators appeared to have softened up yesterday. They indicated they would agree to Gonzales working at the Heart Center in Quezon City under the custody of the Senate Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms (OSAA).

"We can't be without a national security adviser. Perhaps he can operate as national security adviser within the confines of the Philippine Heart Center where he is being treated. In that way, we don't prejudice the government operations," Arroyo said. He said the Senate action did not suspend Gonzales from his official duties.

Not convicted felon

Arroyo said he did not agree that Gonzales, once discharged from the hospital, should be detained at the OSAA in the basement of the Senate building, which is also a parking area.

"I'm worried about the violation of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution, which is very explicit about the rights of those who appear in the Senate," Arroyo said. "If he's detained, he should have decent quarters... He's not a convicted felon."

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said that Gonzales deserved more dignified quarters since he was a Cabinet official and it appeared that his detention would be for the long haul.

Detention 'demeaning'

"We have to consider the fact that he's holding a high position in the government, and we must respect the position given by the Filipino people to functionaries like him," he said.

"We will be demeaning the position of a functionary of a government official... In other words, we will throw away the dignity of the government. The other countries will look down upon us," he added.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, however, maintained that Gonzales should be treated like the rest of the Senate witnesses cited in contempt and be detained at the OSAA.

"What's demeaning about it? He has demeaned himself by fooling everyone," Lacson said, referring to Gonzales' behavior in Wednesday's hearing.

Arroyo said it would be up to Senate President Franklin Drilon to decide where Gonzales would be detained once he's given a clean bill of health by his doctors and is discharged from the Heart Center.

Miriam's proposal

Arroyo, however, expressed reservations at Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's proposal that the President write the Senate to allow Gonzales to testify in an executive session, not in a public hearing.

"It's as if she's admitting that she knows about (the Venable deal). The President will not do that," he said. He added that it would be "embarrassing" for the senators to agree to an executive session.

Santiago said that the President could save Gonzales from indefinite detention by writing a certificate to the Senate that he would testify in an executive session.

"The presidential certification should provide that state security and public interest require that Gonzales' testimony shall be conducted in executive session instead of a public hearing," Santiago said.

"Strictly speaking, it is constitutional for the Senate to hold him in contempt.

"But if the senators apply the doctrine of interdepartmental comity, then maybe he should be merely censured, or placed under house arrest," she said.

Key to liberty

"The key to the liberty of Gonzales lies in his hands. He can purge himself of the contempt decision of the committee by coming forward and testifying again, and telling us what he knows to be the real happening," Enrile said. "The ball is in his court."

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico and Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Joel Virador said Gonzales should be sacked. They also said he probably was covering up for Ms Arroyo.

"To disabuse the minds of people that she is involved in this, the President should fire him at once," Suplico said.

Ocampo said the refusal of Gonzales to answer questions on the Venable contract indicated that Ms Arroyo was trying to conceal "another impeachable offense." He said the Venable contract "borders on treason."

Unpatriotic

"It is unfair and unpatriotic for the Arroyo government to get the assistance of US and other foreign powers in forcing the constitutional amendment being opposed by the majority of the people," he added.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes said he expected Gonzales to face the Senate again. "He is unbowed by this," Reyes told reporters during a visit to the Clark Special Economic Zone. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Boy, 6, saves sister from fire in Marikina

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NOBODY IS TOO YOUNG TO to be a hero.

The Marikina City Council is planning to honor a 6-year-old boy who saved his 4-year-old sister from their burning house two weeks ago, City Fire Chief Antonio Razal said.

"We want him to serve as model to other children," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

John Paul Villaflores was about to watch television at about 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 10 when he heard a commotion inside their compound in a subdivision in Barangay Nangka.

He went out and saw the houses of his relatives on fire.

His father Arnold was at work. His mother Arlette and two siblings were out buying snacks. His sister Rose Ann, 4, was sleeping in the upper floor of their house.

After the fire, John Paul told SFO1 Noel Guiyab that people around him were already panicking when he hurried back into their house.

6-YEAR-OLD/ A23

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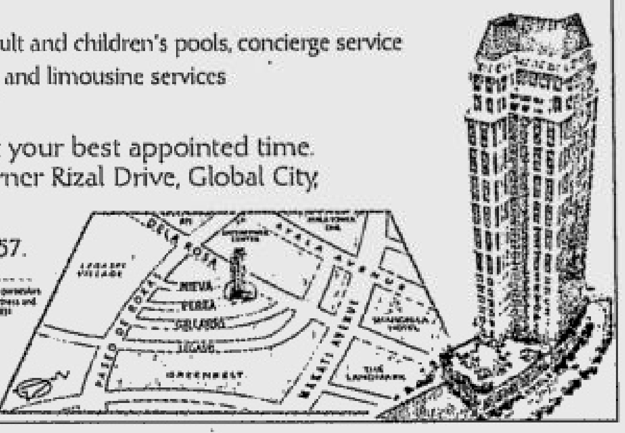

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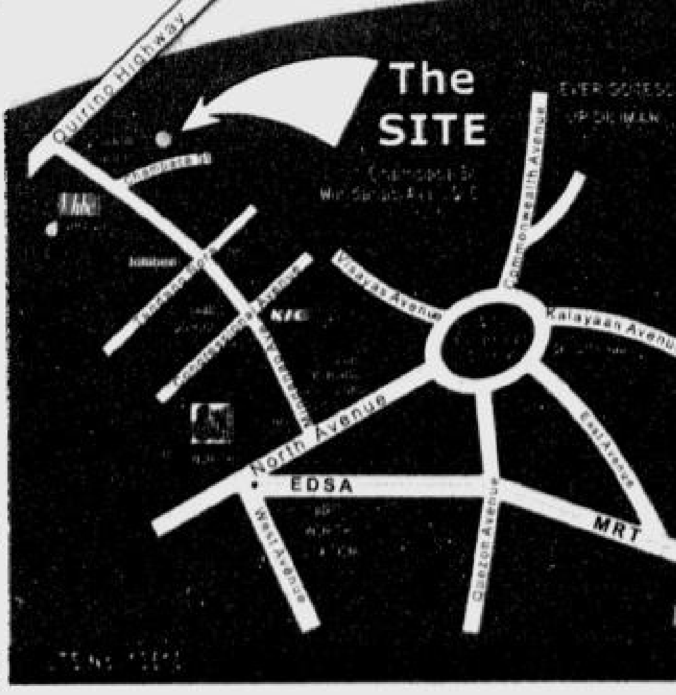

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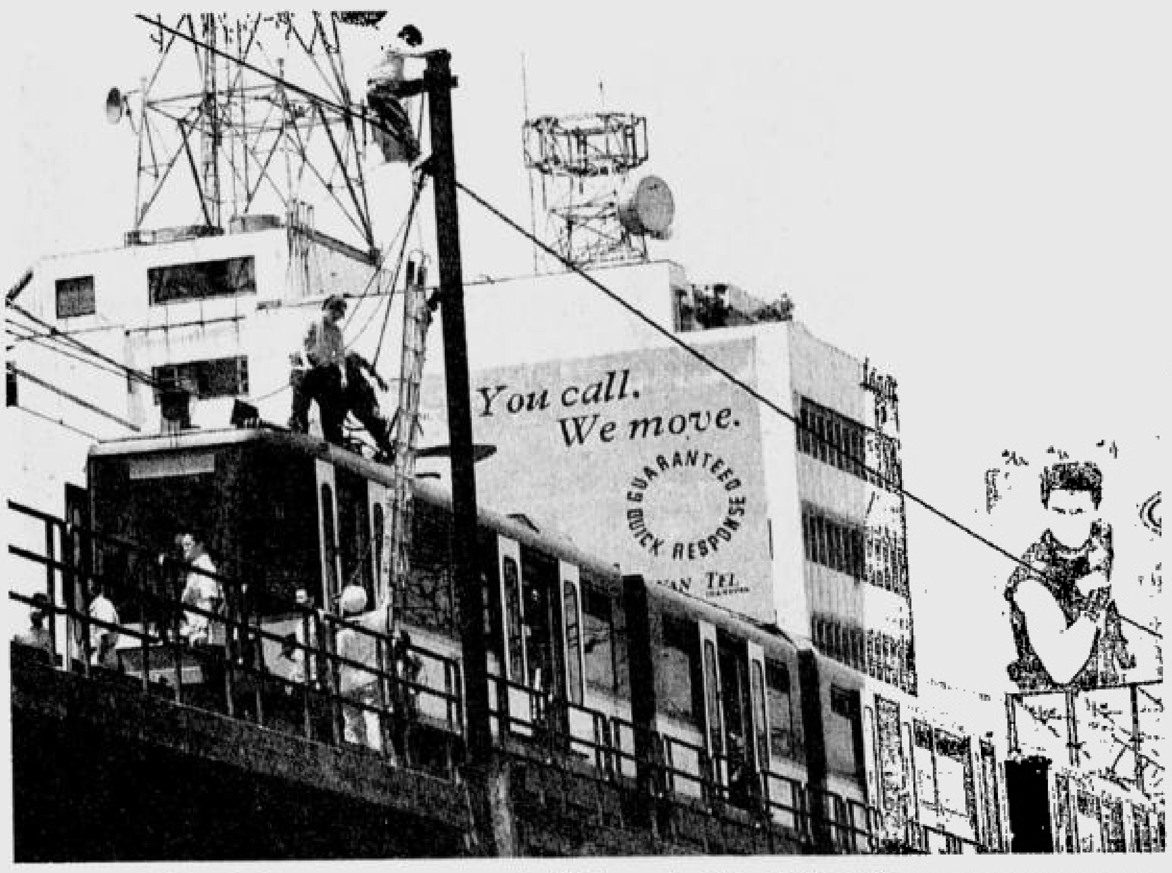
Fallen billboard disrupts MRT service



A METRO Rail Transit Corp. crew removes parts of a huge advertising billboard torn off from its perch by strong winds. The billboard fell and damaged a passing train. JOAN BONDOC

By Clarissa S. Batino

A GIANT BILLBOARD BETWEEN the Cubao and Kamuning railway stations fell on a crucial power cable of a northbound Metro Rail Transit 3 and disrupted railway operations for close to eight hours yesterday.

This was the second time the MRT 3 operations tripped this week. On Monday, MRT operations slowed down at about 6 p.m. when a train coming from Buendia bogged down. The incident left commuters waiting in long queues as the few trains that ran were packed and could no longer accommodate passengers.

MRT 3 General Manager Roberto Lastimoso said a giant billboard fell on a cantenary (overhead) wire that supplied power to the train system.

Mariano Gui, MRT spokesperson, said strong winds blew the tarpaulin that landed on the power cable of the approaching northbound train. The cable snapped and caught fire as it dragged the tarpaulin. The train then stopped between the Cubao and Kamuning stations to unload the passengers. Nobody was hurt although thousands were stranded in the stations.

The train system that carries more than 400,000 passengers between North Edsa and Baclaran each day had to run partial operations starting 10:45 a.m. yesterday.

Lastimoso said the agency would charge the cost of repairs as well as lost revenues estimated at P4 million to the billboard owner.

The proliferation of huge billboards along Edsa remains a sticky issue for the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) which believes this form of outdoor advertising encroaches on road right-of-way, could cause accidents, and should be regulated.

The agency, however, had been barred from dismantling signages on MRT facilities based on a preliminary injunction filed in court by a private ad company.

With the preliminary injunction still in effect, MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said local governments could apply regulations under the National Building Code laying down requirements for such structures with public safety provisions. *With Tarra V. Quismundo*

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NYC	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 805	CONTINENTAL
MIA	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 805	CONTINENTAL
PIT	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 840	CONTINENTAL
NYC	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 870	PHIL AIRLINES
WAS	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 870	PHIL AIRLINES
CHI	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 870	PHIL AIRLINES
BOSTON	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 870	PHIL AIRLINES
DALLAS	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 870	PHIL AIRLINES
HOUSTON	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 870	PHIL AIRLINES
MIA	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	USD 870	PHIL AIRLINES
GUM	45 DAYS STAY IN GUAM	USD 335	PHIL AIRLINES
XIAMEN	UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE OCTOBER DEPARTURE	USD 215	PHIL AIRLINES

ROUTING	DEP/RESTRICTIONS	FARE	AIRLINES
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	TIL 15 DEC 6 MOS VALID TKT	USD 760	PHIL. AIRLINES
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LAX	TIL 30 NOV DEP TKTG TIL 30 OCT 3 MOS VLD	USD 705	CONTINENTAL
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Eyes, ears vs drugs

SOON, Muntinlupa City will deploy "eyes and ears" all over the city to ferret out illegal drug peddlers. These secret agents, called the Illegal Drugs Tracker Volunteers, were expected to perform two major tasks: give information on drug personalities and activities in their area, and verify or confirm raw information about drug activities. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Price cheats warned

CHARGES will be filed against businessmen in Navotas who will take advantage of the pending implementation of the Expanded Value Added Tax, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said. Tiangco issued the warning after receiving reports that prices of basic commodities had gone up unreasonably in various markets in the town. The sudden rise of the prices of fish, meat, and vegetables has alarmed the mayor. Navotas is the biggest supplier of fish in Luzon *Nancy C. Carvajal*

PDI library closed

STARTING Friday, Sept. 23, the Philippine Daily Inquirer library will be temporarily closed to outside users until further notice. This is to give way to the renovation of the library.

NBI steps into battle over Navotas dump

By Blanche S. Rivera

AFTER FAILING TO GET A NOD from the courts for the resumption of its use of a controlled dump, the Navotas government has taken its fight against antidump groups to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

The NBI yesterday summoned two leaders of the fishermen's group Pamalakaya-Bulacan which had been protesting the operation of the dump in Barangay Tanza and had blocked barges loaded with garbage on the Binuangan River since April. Pamalakaya-Bulacan chair Ricardo de Armas and his brother Sonny de Armas were ordered to report to the NBI's antikidnapping, hijacking and robbery division yesterday afternoon to explain the river blockade.

Eleven others received subpoenas signed by NBI director Gen. Reynaldo Wycoco and lawyer Nestor Mantaring early this week.

On Tuesday, 20 fishermen blocked the entry of a trash barge with their boats during a "trial passage," prompting Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco to seek the help of the NBI. Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement that bringing in the NBI into the fray was a "desperate act" on the part of the mayor.

Boy, 6, saves sister from fire in Marikina

From page A22

He ran up the stairs, woke up his sister, helped her put on her slippers and carried her out of the house.

Then the boy went straight to the house of one of his playmates, Guiyab said.

The fire quickly devoured the houses in the compound. Firefighters put out the fire two hours later.

John Paul's grandmother Felicita Gavasan, 65, sustained burns while neighbor Jeffrey Mayor suffered wounds when the iron sheets he was satnding on collapsed while he was helping pour water on the burning houses.

The boy's parents said John Paul always showed concern for his siblings, asking if they had eaten, or looking for them when they were out of his sight.

Some words of caution, though: Guiyab said John Paul was lucky he quickly learned about the fire.

Their house was not yet on fire when he decided to go back for his sister.

But had the house been on fire, it would have been best not to return, Guiyab said.

To avoid family members trapped inside, he advised residents, including children, to familiarize themselves with their house layout so they could get out fast during emergencies.

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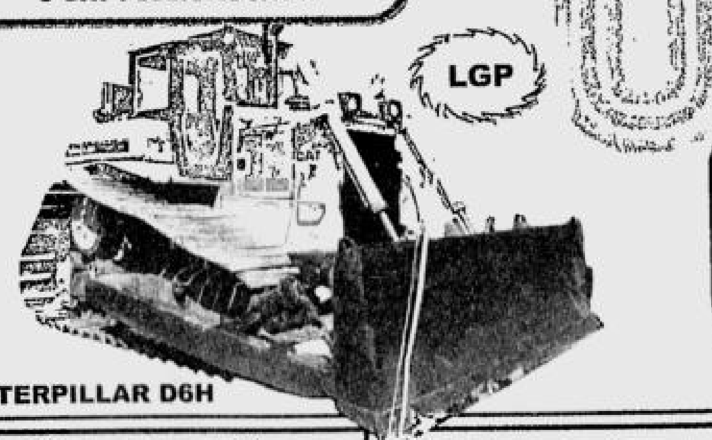

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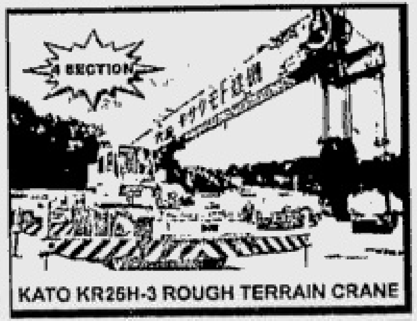

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Do-or-die for Dolphins, Knights

PCU'S Beaw Belga tries to elude Letran's Jonathan Aldave in Game 2 of their NCAA Finals series. Odds are about even when the two teams dispute the crown today. ROMY HOMILLADA

Crown on line as coaches plot battle plans

By Jasmine W. Payo

NOW THAT THE NCAA BASKETball tournament has come down to a winner-take-all battle, the Letran Knights and the Philippine Christian U. Dolphins will try to keep in mind their coaches' list of reminders.

"On every single possession, we have to execute," said coach Louie Alas after his Knights claimed Game 2 to forge the no-tomorrow game at 3 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum. "You can never underestimate the firepower of PCU."

Dolphins mentor Junel Baculi remained confident despite the Knights' masterful 78-60 win last Wednesday to even the title series at 1-1.

"I believe we still have the energy and the power to perform better," noted Baculi. "We showed that in Game 1 and hopefully we can dish it out on Friday (today)."

GAME TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—PCU vs Letran
(Game 3-Srs)

In the opener of the title-series Monday, PCU came out big down the stretch for a 79-74 triumph.

"In contrast to Game 1, we played very individualistic (in Game 2)," noted Baculi. "We have to correct that in order to beat Letran. Everybody should contribute."

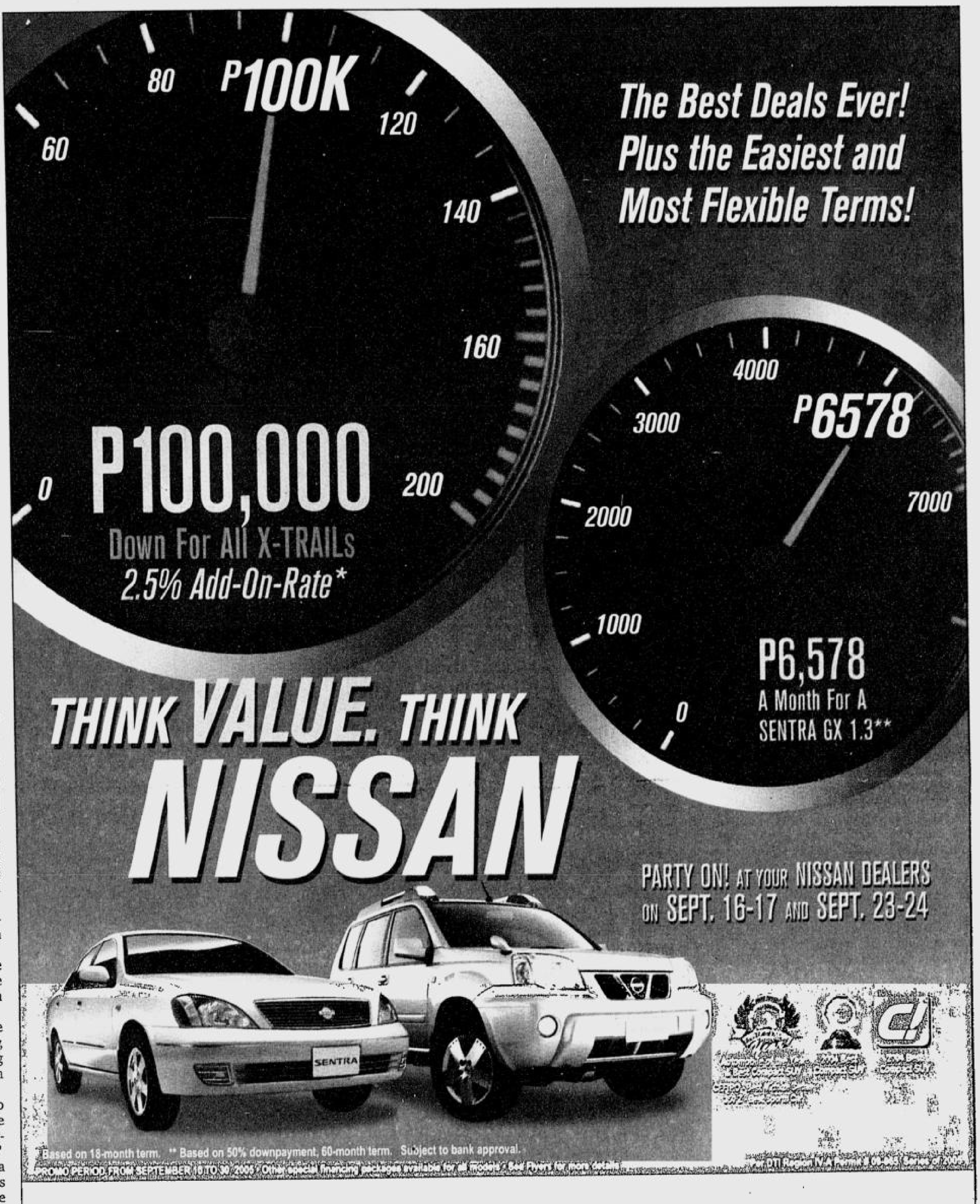
Alas predicted that it would boil down to a mind game since both teams have their systems in check. "There will be minor adjustments," he said. "It will just be all mental."

And certainly no one knows that more than Baculi and his Dolphins.

"We really played bad because I think my players' mindset was that it would be easy," he said after the defending champions failed in their bid to sweep the Finals series.

"We should limit our errors," Baculi added. "Our players also became very predictable. I told (Gabby) Espinas and (Jason) Castro that they will clamp on them so there should be extra passes. But it didn't happen."

Meanwhile, Most Improved Player Aaron Aban and senior point guard Boyet Bautista will again lead the campaign to bring the crown back to Letran, the 2003 champion.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Poisoned Fiba deserves an antidote

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee has been making advanced moves.

Jose "Peping" Cojuangco has claimed everything would be fine even if no basketball championship were disputed in the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games.

Of course, not everybody will nod and agree with Cojuangco.

Even Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, the POC chief's overachieving daughter, cannot vouch that her father speaks for the whole populace in this case.

There are countless sports fans out there, mainly in the slum areas, who live and swear by basketball.

* * *

If it were tennis or any other sport like canoeing that was in danger of being scrapped from the Games calendar, it would've not caused so much worry.

But take away billiards or boxing from the SEA Games calendar and you would also hear a howl of protest.

It cannot be avoided. Athletics and swimming could land the bigger number of medals. But home fans will be saving their biggest cheers for our competitors in the so-called Three B's (basketball, boxing, billiards) when RP seeks its first ever overall SEA Games championship starting Nov. 27.

Of course, despite all that basketball had been through here, it has remained the best-seller, the No. 1 sport in the land.

* * *

Basketball, no doubt, is still the main staple.

Scratch it from the calendar and the poor Pinoy would feel as though rice has been stricken out of his diet.

People would feel lost, disoriented without the regular favorite.

Cojuangco is himself aware of this.

The POC chieftain wants everybody happy, so he has scheduled a trip to Geneva to appeal the suspension of the Philippines by the Fiba, ruling body in international basketball.

* * *

In pleading his case, Cojuangco would play as the underdog.

In fact, Frank Elizalde, the IOC representative to the country, has said he was not too optimistic about Cojuangco's mission.

Cojuangco had himself explained that "it's not in my hands."

All we could do is keep our fingers crossed.

Fellow lovers of basketball here should send off Cojuangco with the best of wishes. Let's also hope Fiba decision makers would lend a neutral ear to our representative.

* * *

Politics, indeed, could be the main culprit behind the suspension of the Philippines by the Fiba.

However, the world body need not look far to know the truth behind the banning by the POC of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

All Fiba needs is ask about the character and actuations of Graham Lim, both in his capacity as discredited sec-gen of the BAP and as an unwanted alien in the Philippines.

Lim, ordered deported by the Philippine government for faking his birth papers, had caused the country the biggest shame and pain in the international basketball field.

Lim is so dirty and rotten that the entire POC had to risk being suspended by the Fiba just to make sure the senseless rape of RP basketball by Lim was stopped.

Lim has led his gang of blind followers in sending RP basketball to its deepest pit of despair and decay.

Unfortunately for Fiba Central in Geneva, it has obviously allowed itself to be poisoned by Lim and his cohorts in Fiba-Asia.

Pray that Peping Cojuangco is able to deliver the right antidote next week.

It's Ateneo vs La Salle in semifinals

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT SEEMED ATENEO CAN'T WAIT to get at La Salle in the finals.

Overcoming a rocky stretch in the third quarter, the Eagles made it a three-game sweep over the University of the East Warriors this season, winning, 76-65, yesterday to claim the No. 3 spot in the Final Four of the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

That means the Eagles will be facing the Archers in the semifinals this Sunday, with Ateneo hoping to score a first win in three games with La Salle this year to forge a playoff for a title slot.

The top-ranked Far Eastern U Tamaraws will battle the Warriors in the other Final Four pairing Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Armed with twice-to-beat incentives as the top two teams in the eliminations, the Tamaraws and the Archers need only to win once to forge a repeat of their championship showdown last year.

"This is the first time our big men had the legs," said coach Norman Black after prevailing over the Warriors in their playoff for third. "We haven't been getting that big production from them lately. It's a good sign going into Sunday's game."

The Eagles' frontcourt took charge, with JC Intal leading with 21 points. Forward Doug Kramer added 16 points and grabbed 16 rebounds.

The Eagles sustained their early double-digit edge with Intal pumping in eight of their first 12 points for a 53-39 edge in the third quarter.

Earlier, Adamson's defending champion Lady Falcons claimed the first title berth in the women's division after nipping the FEU Lady Tamaraws, 60-58, in double overtime.

The Lady Eagles, runners-up last season, drubbed the UP Lady Maroons, 48-33, to force a knockout game for the remaining Finals spot.

The scores:

First Game (Women)

ATENEO 48—Chua 10, Tioseco 8, Matreo 7, Villanueva 5, Barracoso 5, Ngo 4, Caynap 4, Quimpo 3, Pacheco 2, Tan-Chi 0

UP 33—Marasigan 7, Gobuquin 6, Asistio 6, Roma 4, Tolentino 3, Javier 2, Cruz 2, Aranjuez 2, Sadorra 1, Tomelden 0, Novero 0, Marco 0, Canlas 0, Bautista 0

Quarters: 12-1, 18-12, 35-20, 48-33

Second Game (Women)

ADAMSON 60—Arayi 19, Constantino 11, Bombeo 11, Ravago 6, Lomogda 4, Jaleco 3, Ortiz 2, Santiago 2, Cenita 0

FEU 58—Nido 20, Adriano 14, Jose 7, Borja 6, Mercado 5, Abella 4, Rivera 2, Soriano 0, Sernal 0, Gonzales 0

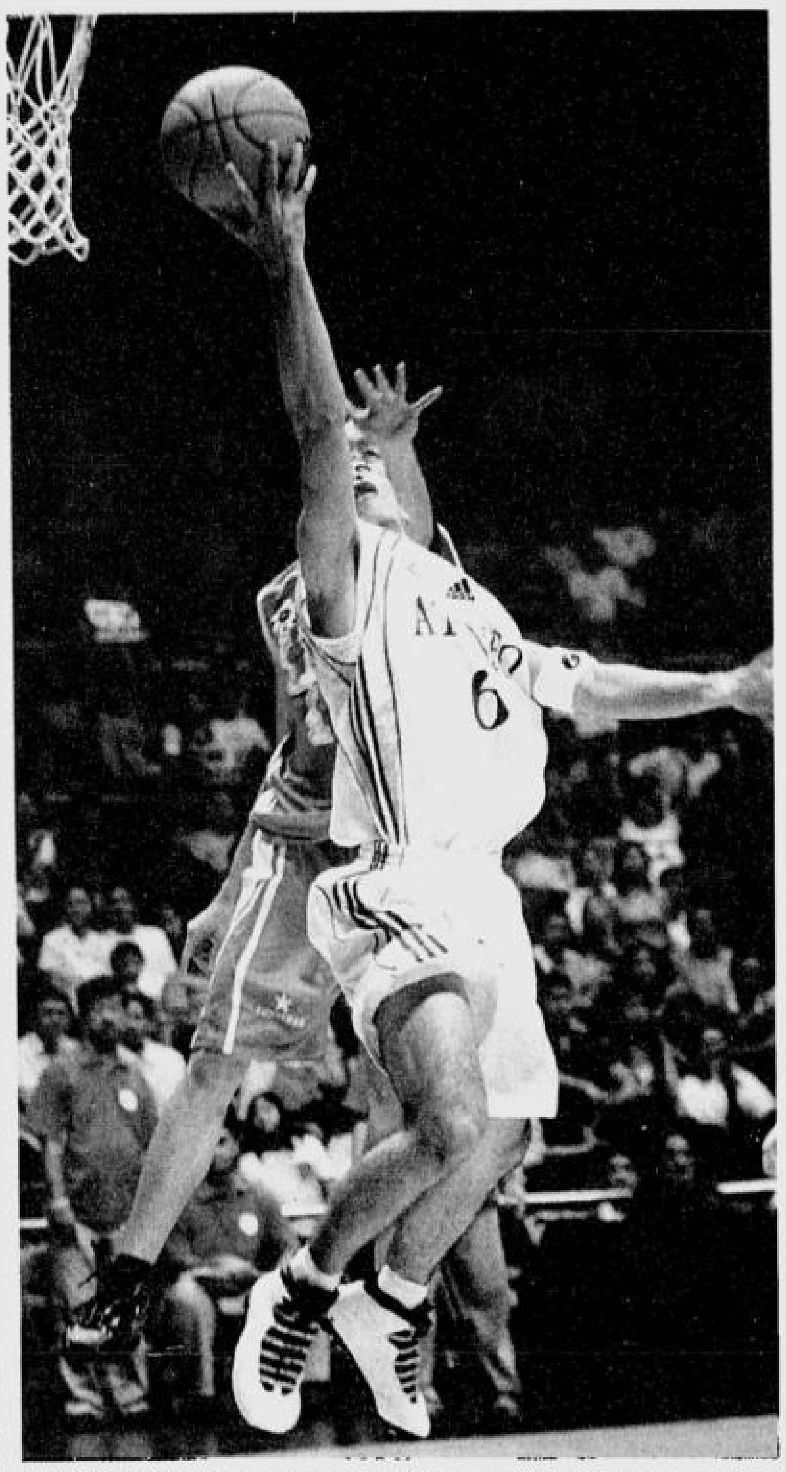
Quarters: 11-11, 20-22, 34-35, 47-47, 52-52 (1OT), 60-58

Third Game (Srs)

ATENEO 76—Intal 21, Kramer 16, Membrere 13, Tenorio 9, Escalona 8, Aguilar 3, Quimson 2, Nazareno 2, Laterre 2, Reyes 0, Barracoso 0

UE 65—Custodio 17, Cañizares 13, Borboran 11, Raymundo 9, Espiritu 6, Labagala 4, Saguindel 3, Gregorio 2, Palaganas 0, Martinez 0, Babilonia 0

Quarters: 21-19, 41-32, 59-55, 76-65.



ATENEO'S LA Tenorio drives past University of the East's Joral Canizares in their game yesterday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

PSC pledges SEA Games full support

By Musong R. Castillo

THE GOVERNMENT MAY END UP COUGHING up half of the country's budgetary needs to be able to successfully host the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, the chair of the Philippine Sports Commission said yesterday.

"We are saying this because many [people] are saying that the government is not helping," William "Butch" Ramirez said yesterday. "There were statements that the government is not doing its share for the hosting.

"This is actually to tell everyone that the President is contributing this much for the staging of the Games."

Aside from the P300 million that President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier pledged from her Social Fund, Ramirez said the government will be spending at least P200 million more for the board and lodging, competition uniforms of the athletes, the opening parade and other incidentals.

The PSC has earmarked US$30 a day in food allowance for each athlete during the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 Games, while setting a budget of US$40 a day for the athlete's hotel accommodation.

Several news reports have come up in recent weeks saying the Philsoc has yet to fully raise the P1.2 billion needed to successfully stage the Games.

"The Philsoc (Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee) is still in charge," Ramirez said. "We are here to help."

Junior netters eye KL circuit berths

THE QUEST FOR THE MALAYSIA TRIP GRAND prizes heats up when talent-rich Olongapo City hosts the North Luzon regional finals of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup from Saturday to Monday at the Olongapo Tennis Club.

All five regional champions in the boys' and girls' 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions qualify to the National Finals in Manila slated Oct. 29-30 for the chance to represent the Philippines in the 2005 Malaysia Junior Tennis Circuit in December.

The Milo tournament, organized by Children's Tennis Workshop with support from Adidas, is being coordinated with the OTC—the home-base of Davis Cupper PJ Tierro—under the guidance of club president lawyer John Aquino.

End of road for PBA's 'Aerial Voyager'

MENESES: Hanging

By June Navarro

AGE HAS CAUGHT UP WITH FORMER MOST Valuable Player Vergel Meneses.

Now bursting with young, promising talents in the wings, the Red Bull Barakos relegated the 1995 MVP to the reserve list for the coming 2005-2006 Philippine Basketball Association season.

"It's hard to pass up all his accomplishments, but we don't have much choice," said Red Bull Barako coach Yeng Guiao.

"There comes a time when an older player should give way to the younger ones. Ours was a choice of giving his slot to a younger player with a lot of potential, or keep him (Meneses) and get limited contributions from him."

The Barakos opted to keep the 36-year-old Meneses in the sidelines rather than lose the services of any one from among Lordy Tugade, Junthy Valenzuela, Cyrus Baguio and rookies Leo Najorda and Larry Fonacier.

Meneses, however, will continue to receive his monthly salary with the Barako until next year.

A reliable source close to the 14-year PBA veteran said Meneses would seek a slot in Sta. Lucia Realty, Alaska or Talk 'N Text, even though the respective lineups of these teams are already full.

"We gave him the option to stay so he could formally retire and we can give him a nice send-off," said Guiao. "But he feels he can still play."

Meneses began his pro career with Presto in 1992 and captured the MVP in 1995 while playing for Swift. Known as the "Aerial Voyager" for his high-flying forays to the hoop, Meneses is a member of the 5,000 points and 2,000 assists clubs and has compiled 9,433 points.

Unrated Tan Ho advances with top Filipino bets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FILIPINO SEEDS MIGUEL LORENZO Narvaez and Pablo Olivarez II breezed to the quarterfinals in the company of unranked Joshua Tan Ho who whipped up a storm in yesterday's Phinma-ITF junior tennis championships.

Tan Ho, just 14 but already with two stints in the World Junior Championships under his belt, showed surprising maturity in routing Raymond Villarete, 6-3, 6-1.

An eighth grader at the International School, Tan Ho handily won over the fans at the Yñares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig with his masterful conquest of Villarete.

"I think I played my best game today," said the 5-foot-3 Tan Ho, who has been training under former Davis Cupper Manny Tecson.

Tan Ho will face today Japan's Toshiya Suzuki, the sixth seed and World No. 738, who ousted Malaysian Mohd Asha Zainal Abidin, 6-4, 6-1.

The second-seeded Narvaez and the fifth-seeded Olivarez made it to the next round after bundling out Japan's Kazuma Kobayashi, 6-1, 6-2, and Taiwan's Lin Kuan-heng, 6-1, 6-3, respectively.

Narvaez's next assignment will be Choi Woo-whuk of Korea, who scored a 6-3, 6-3 upset of No. 8 Chang Yu-chi of Taiwan.

Olivarez will take on top seed Australian William McNamee, who needed three sets to get past Korean Chung Soo-han, 6-7 (4), 6-0, 6-1.

Michael Basco, the other unranked Filipino in the tournament sponsored by Dunlop Balls, Holiday Inn Manila-Galleria, Bayer Phils. and Futures Foundation, was eliminated by Taiwan's Lee Yi-pei, 6-3, 6-2.

TOP seed William McNamee of Australia returns to South Korea's Chung Soo-han. McNamee rallied from a set down to oust Chung. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SPORTSWATCH

Petron inter-school taekwondo Saturday

ABOUT 1,500 jins are expected to vie for honors in the 2005 Petron national inter-school taekwondo championships tomorrow and on Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the tournament is open to all schools affiliated with the PTA. Organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong revealed that a Korean team of 12 delegates will be a special entry in the event. Competition will be conducted in senior men and women, junior men and women, mid-junior men and women and grade school (boys and girls). The two-day meet is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Petron, Samsung and Milo. Martial arts enthusiasts are invited to watch the competition starting at 9 a.m.

Prize bonanza awaits Poker King winners

A BONANZA of prizes awaits the winners of the fourth leg of the ongoing Poker King Challenge set tomorrow and on Sunday at Casino Filipino Mactan at the Waterfront Hotel, Lapu-Lapu City. The event is a series of non-wager tournaments conducted by the Poker Club of the Philippines (PCP) in partnership with the Philippine Gaming Corp. (Pagcor). Prizes at stake are trophies and certificates worth over P100,000 from tournament sponsors PCP, Pagcor, Jack Daniels, Miller Genuine Draft, Bicycle Playing Cards/Star Paper, Hyatt Hotel and Casino, Ralph's wine and MyReviewerOnline. The top three winners of the Cebu leg earn a trip to Manila to compete in the Poker King Grand Finals to be held by the end of the year. PCP president Ray "Butch" Gamboa said the tournaments promote poker not as a wager game but as a game of skills where one's ability to calculate probabilities, to strategize and to discern opponents' reactions are tested. For inquiries, call 8179092 or visit www.pokerclubofthephilippines.com.

Siemens Cup boosts Philippine football

SOCCER of a special kind takes center field during German Month 2005 with the staging of the Lufthansa-backed Siemens Soccer Cup. Ten teams from German companies and organizations in the Philippines are vying for top honors and prizes in the tournament slated tomorrow at the Manila Polo Club on Sept. 24. Each team consists of a mixed lineup of male and female employees. A cheerleading competition will enliven the games. "The Siemens Soccer Cup was a real challenge for us," said Tina Schumacher, director of event organizer Fairs & More. "We're trying to convert basketball addicts into soccer players." Teams from Siemens, Bosch, Lufthansa, Lufthansa Technik, CATS Motors, Fairs & More, the German Development Center, Temic and TUV are taking part in the tournament. The competition will also draw attention to the 2006 World Cup to be held in Germany.

STI dribblers stop St. Clare, gain Naascu playoff

DEXTER MICUTUAN AND RAMON MABAYO joined forces in the fourth quarter as STI downed St. Clare, 64-59, yesterday to keep its men's basketball championship hopes alive in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) at the CEU Gym.

With the win, the Olympians forced a playoff with the Saints tomorrow to decide who gets into the best-of-five championship series against the University of Manila Hawks.

Micutuan and Mabayo, who combined for 24 points, struck hardest in the payoff period to turn back St. Clare, which came into the match enjoying a twice-to-beat advantage.

UM also moved into the finals of the junior division against the St. Clare Baby Saints as Linnel Manalo shot 33 points to spark the Baby Hawks past New Era, 76-66. *Marc Reyes*

RP loses more ground despite Pagunsan's 67

JUVIC PAGUNSAN: His best round in three days fails to cushion teammates' misadventures.

NARITA, JAPAN—THE PHILIPPINES BOWED out of contention in the Nomura Cup with a mediocre one-under-par 215 Thursday even as Australia virtually wrapped up a second straight championship with another fiery effort at the Narita Golf Club here.

Juvic Pagunsan finally found his form after struggling for two days as he fired an eagle-spiked 67, but individual co-leader Artemio Murakami couldn't sustain his fine game and settled for a two-over par 74.

Counting Jay Bayron's own 74, the Filipinos settled for a 215 and a 54-hole aggregate of 640, 23 strokes off the pace.

Erwin Vinluan, who counted for the team with a 74 in the first round, ballooned to an 80.

With its so-so round under overcast skies, the Filipinos dropped to fifth from a high of joint third in the first day, enabling SEA Games rival Thailand to grab fourth place.

A solid 207 by its youth brigade, backstopped by 16-year-old Anujit Hirunratanakorn's 66, put the Thais at 638.

Australia defused the charge by New Zealand and South Korea as it duplicated its sizzling first round score of 203 and padded its overnight three-stroke lead to seven heading into the final 18 holes of this event also known as the Asia-Pacific Golf Team Championship.

With Andrew Dodt firing a 67 and Michael Sim and Korean expatriate Lee Woo-joon carding identical 68s, the Aussies totaled 617.

South Korea returned a 205 and caught up with New Zealand in second place at 624.

The Kiwis, who also sizzled with a 205 Thursday, slowed down with a 207 this time.

Murakami, who made quite an impression here with a 67 and a 69 in the first two rounds, never recovered from an errant drive that sliced into the woods on No. 1 for a double-bogey.

He went four-over on No. 13 after a missed-green bogey. The 22-year-old former RP amateur champ birdied Nos. 14 and 17 to salvage his 74.

Murakami tumbled down to eighth overall in the individual race at 210, in a tie with three others.

Lee, the power-hitting anchor of the Aussies' back-to-back title bid here, had a 54-hole total of 204 to lead South Korea's Lee Dong-hwan by two strokes. Michael Sim, the only holdover from the 2003 champion squad, stood at 207.

It was a day of misadventure for the RP squad, skippered by National Golf Association of the Philippines Director General Bert Sabularse and sent here by SEAG team golf patron Ricky Razon.

"We're not lucky enough to have both Pagunsan and Murakami scoring well for the team in one day," said national team coach Bong Lopez.

India stood sixth at 647 after a 212 followed by Malaysia (217-649) and Japan (211-649), Taiwan (216-654) and China (215-661).

Archers to train in SK

EIGHT FILIPINO (COMPOUND bow) archers flew to Seoul, South Korea, yesterday to undergo a two-week training at Coach Kim's Archery Training Center in preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games set in the Philippines from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Former Sydney Olympian Jennifer Chan and former Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Joann Tabañag head the group. The other archers are Ma. Amaya Paz, Carlos Carag, Gil Gabriel, Earl Benjamin Yap, Karl Francis Achacoso and Rosendo Sombrio.

The archers' trip is sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission.

National archery association president Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner and secretary general/treasurer Ligaya P. Manalang believe that the archers are capable of winning gold medals in the compound bow competition, which has been included in the SEAG program for the first time.

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VIP at ringside for Gejon

GEJON: Ready

FILIPINO RING ICON Manny Pacquiao will lead a small Philippine group that will leave for Japan today to be at ringside when undefeated Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon challenges World Boxing Association minimumweight champion Yutaka Niida of Japan this Sunday in Yokohama.

Pacquiao will be joined by Gejon's manager Rex "Wakee" Salud on a Philippine Airlines flight to Tokyo that will depart Cebu at 7 a.m.

The Gejon "cheering squad" will be billeted at the Grand Palace Hotel, where the Filipino fighter is also staying with his trainer Brix Flores and conditioning coach Robert Bubuli.

Joining the group are Pacquiao's wife Jinkee, former Cebu City councilor George Rama, GAB boxing division chief Emmanuel Flores, Ariel Palcuto and two boxing journalists.

Gejon and Niida passed yesterday's medical examinations required by the WBA at the Daido Hospital in Tokyo, according to Salud.

The protagonists will meet the press today. It will be followed by a rules meeting for officials who will work the 12-round fight.

Tomorrow, the official weigh-in takes place at the Korakuen Hall starting at 3 p.m. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Scoop guests

OFFICIALS of the technical panel of the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee, led by its chair Harry Angping, will be the guests in today's Scoop Weekly Session, sponsored by Accel, at the Kamayan Restaurant in Padre Faura. Also expected at the forum are the RP canoe-kayak and muay thai teams.

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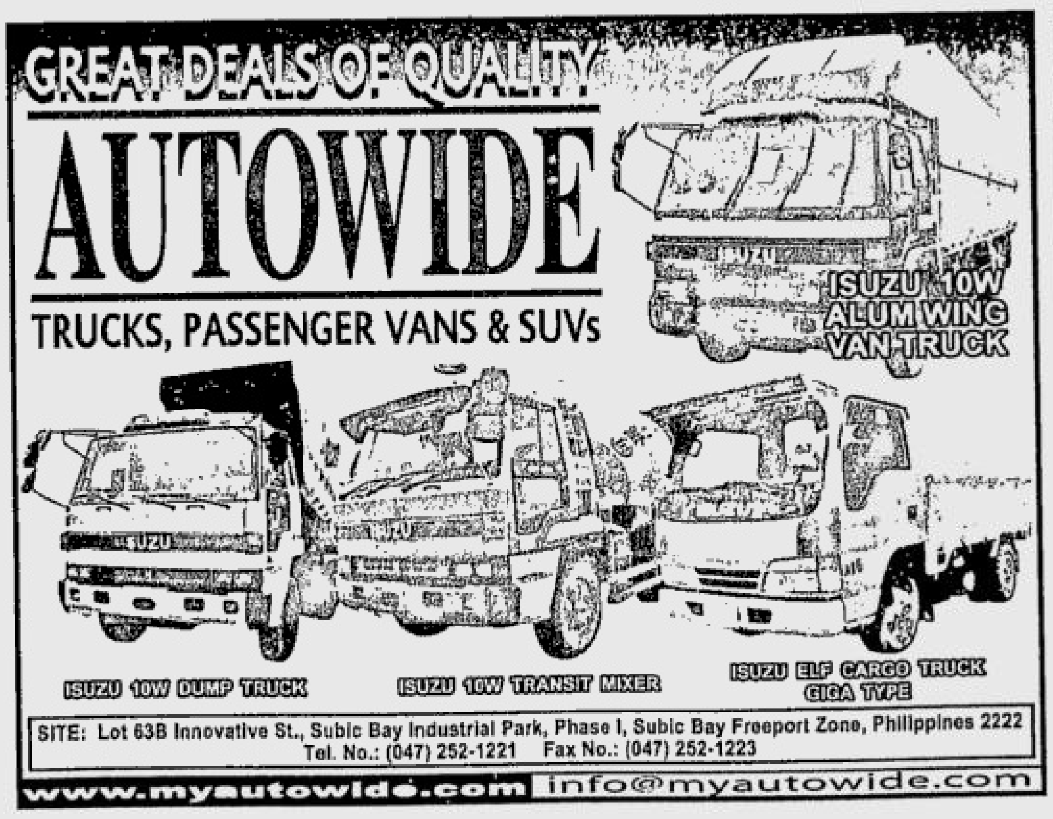

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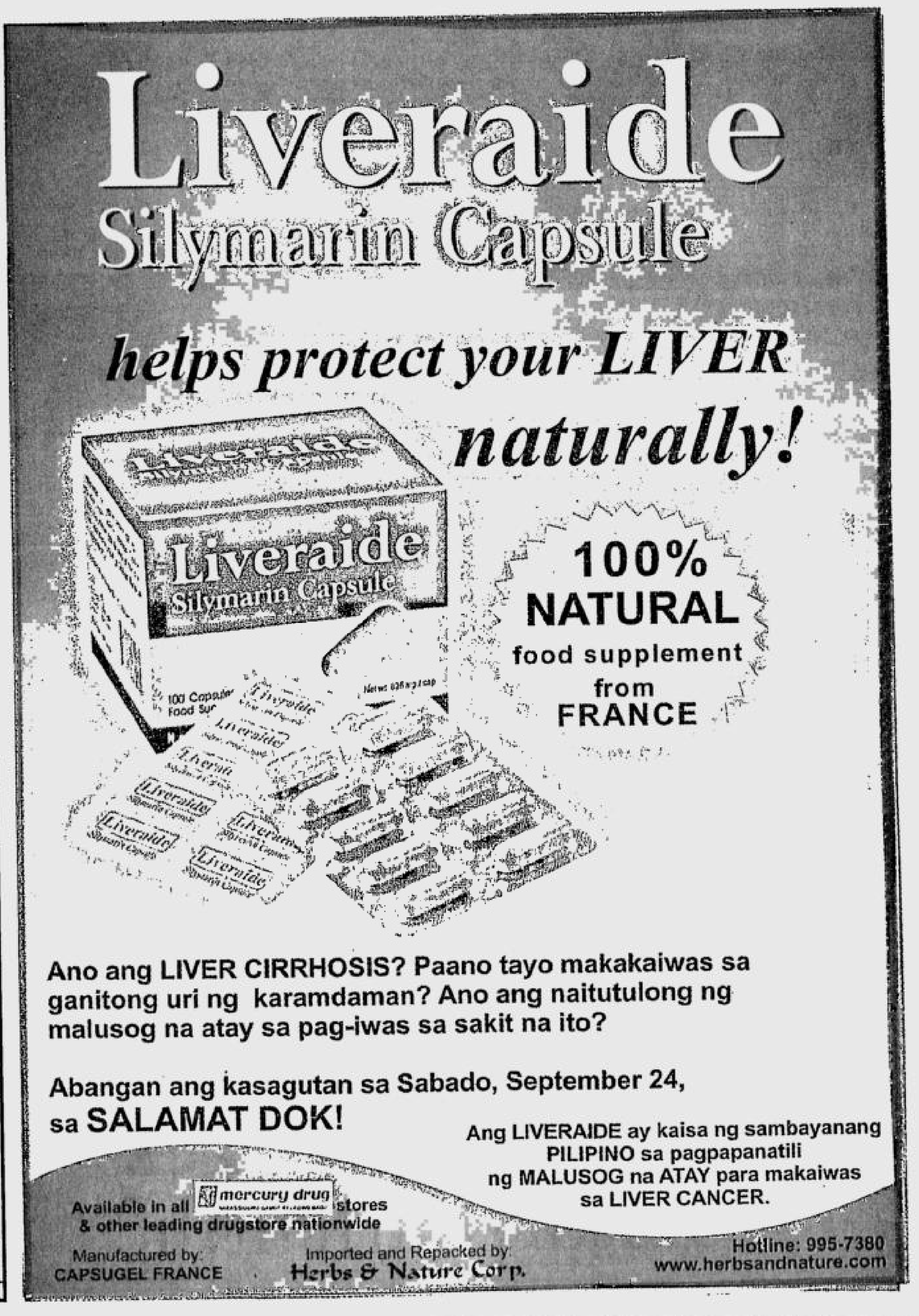

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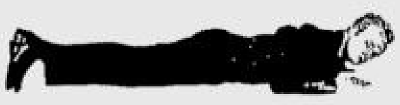

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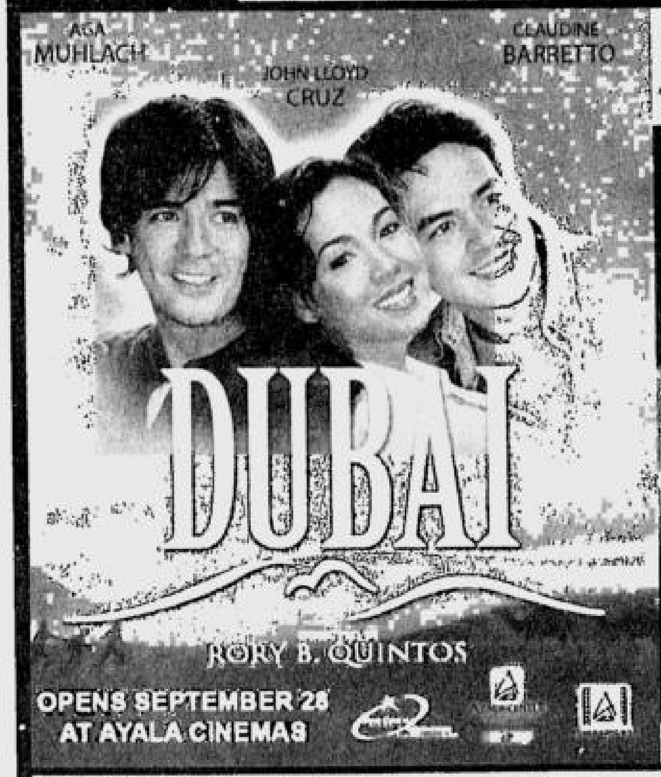

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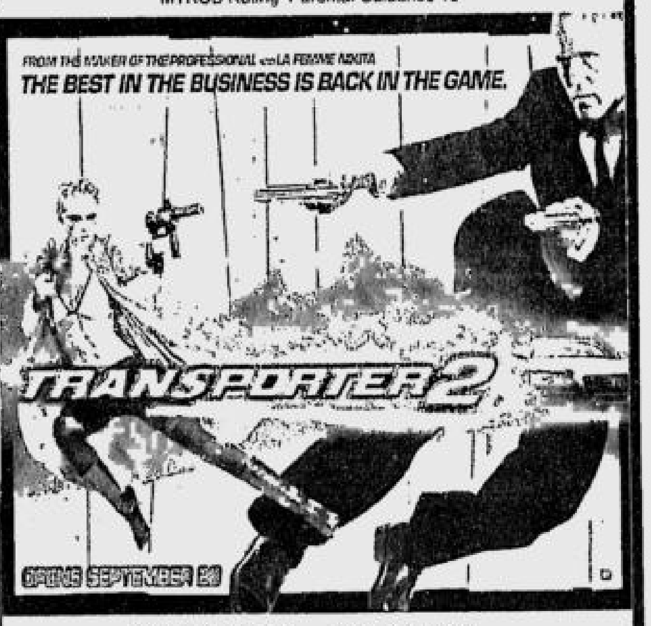
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Woods partners Couples

GAINESVILLE, VIRGINIA—TIGER WOODS' WISH WAS granted on Wednesday when he was partnered with Fred Couples for the opening series of foursomes at the Presidents Cup.

WOODS (left) and Couples line up a putt during Wednesday's practice for the Presidents Cup golf tournament. REUTERS

The US pair will face the International team's Retief Goosen (South Africa) and Adam Scott (Australia) in Thursday's first match at the Robert Trent Jones course.

Playing alongside the world number one has proved a difficult assignment in past Presidents and Ryder Cup competitions.

Woods has yet to win in six fourball matches in the Presidents Cup but has a 3-0 record in the singles.

His Ryder Cup record is only slightly better, he is 3-5 in fourballs and 2-5-1 in foursomes.

Woods partnered Couples at the 1998 Presidents Cup in Australia, beating Vijay Singh and Ernie Els in the foursomes.

"They both said they would like to play with each other," US captain Jack Nicklaus told reporters.

"I polled all the players and every one of them wanted to play with Tiger.

"So I had a pool of which ones Tiger wanted to play with and Tiger said he would very much like to play with Fred.

"Tiger also said he wanted to play with Jim (Furyk) so somewhere along the line I will probably have Tiger with Jim.

"I don't know if there is an intimidation factor in playing against Tiger Woods or not.

"We felt like we wanted to get started off with a win, we felt like Tiger is the best player in the world and we've had Freddie playing very well." *Reuters*

CHINA OPEN

Serena falls in 1st round

BEIJING—DEFENDING CHAMPION SERENA Williams lost her opening match at the China Open on Wednesday, falling to 127th-ranked Chinese wild card Sun Tiantian by 6-2, 7-6 (7).

It's the first time 9th-ranked Williams, winner of seven Grand Slams, has lost to anyone outside the top 100 in a main draw. It was Sun's first win over anyone in the top 40.

Williams hasn't reached a final since winning the Australian Open in February, and has been bothered by shoulder, ankle and knee problems.

"I would say the main reason for my loss today is my left knee," said Williams, who had a first-round bye. "I just played terrible. Sun played very well and was ready for the match. I'm disappointed I couldn't perform better today."

Sun startled the home crowd by jumping ahead 2-0 and easily taking the first set. In the error-filled match, Williams frequently sprayed balls long, hit drop shots short, and double-faulted.

Groups, athletes demand lab ban

PARIS — INTERNATIONAL sport federations and the head of the IOC athletes' commission have demanded the suspension of a French laboratory after leaked documents were used to accuse cyclist Lance Armstrong of doping in 1999, the French sports daily L'Equipe reported Wednesday.

Denis Oswald, president of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), and Sergei Bubka, IOC athlete's commission chief, made the request in a joint letter to the World Anti-Doping Agency.

In the letter to WADA's executive committee in Montreal, Canada, they accused the Chatenay-Malabry laboratory of violating "confidentiality regulations" and called for an investigation to identify the workers who handed over the documents.

"According to the world code, that laboratory should have ensured the anonymity of the samples used in their research, or asked the athletes concerned for permission to perform (post) analyses. It's not a question of protecting anyone, but of applying the rules," Oswald said, according to L'Equipe.

Last month, L'Equipe published evidence allegedly showing that six of Armstrong's frozen urine samples from 1999 came back positive for endurance-boosting EPO when they were retested last year.

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Race 4—1. Euro Bucks 2. One Vision 3. Smokin' Red

Race 5—1. Well Noted 2. Reason to Believe/Audrey's Temper 3. Pirouette

Race 6—1. Kalmia 2. Dream Cross 3. Perfect Storm 4. Ruah

Race 7—1. First of All 2. Tactical Move 3. Star Emblem 4. Daddy's Girl

Race 8—1. Bullish Dream 2. Road Runner 3. Fortius 4. Emergency Blow

Race 9—1. Stradivarius 2. Original 3. Gigi's Gold 4. Extreme Connection 5. Valiente 6. Lord of the Ring

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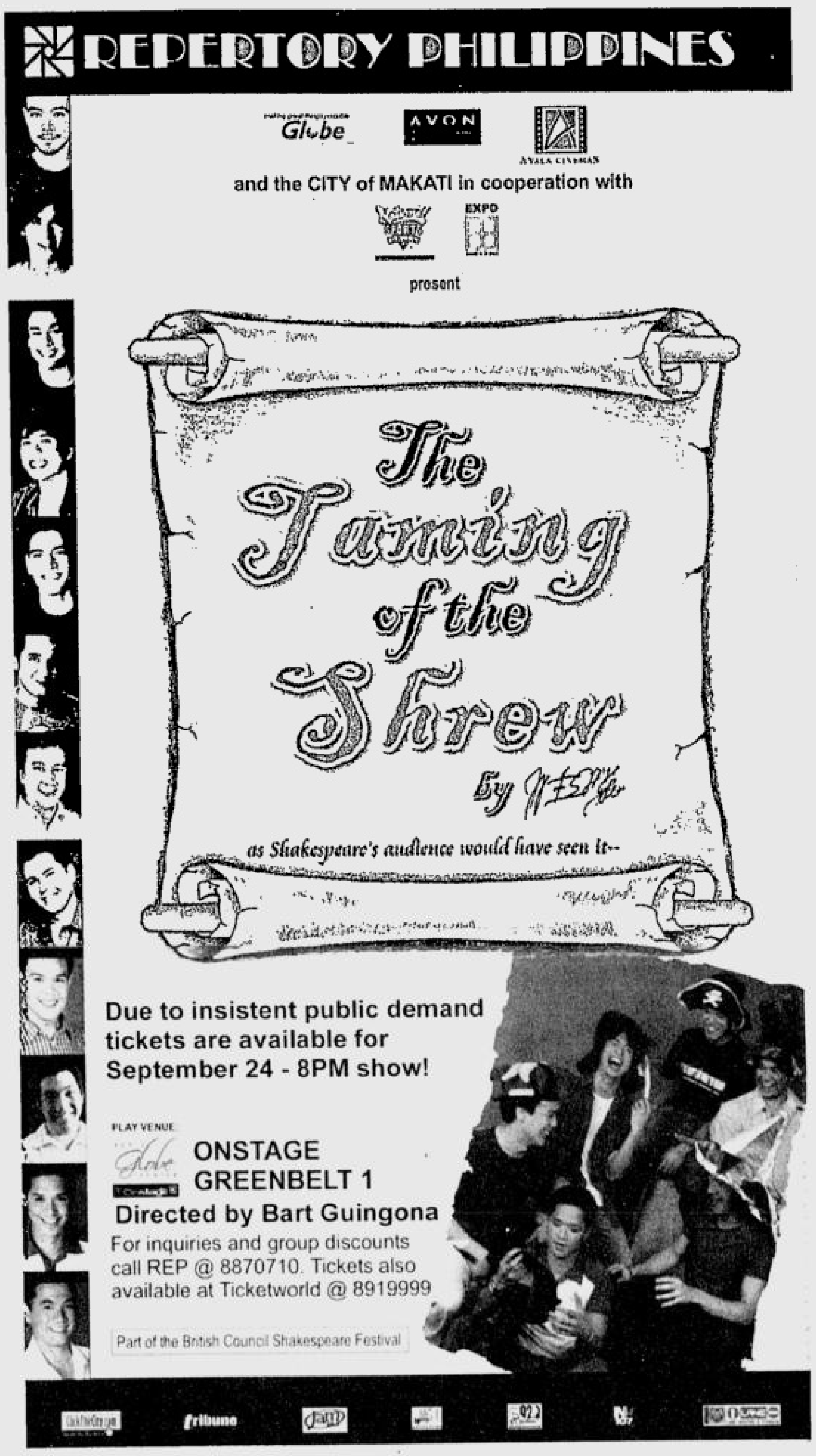
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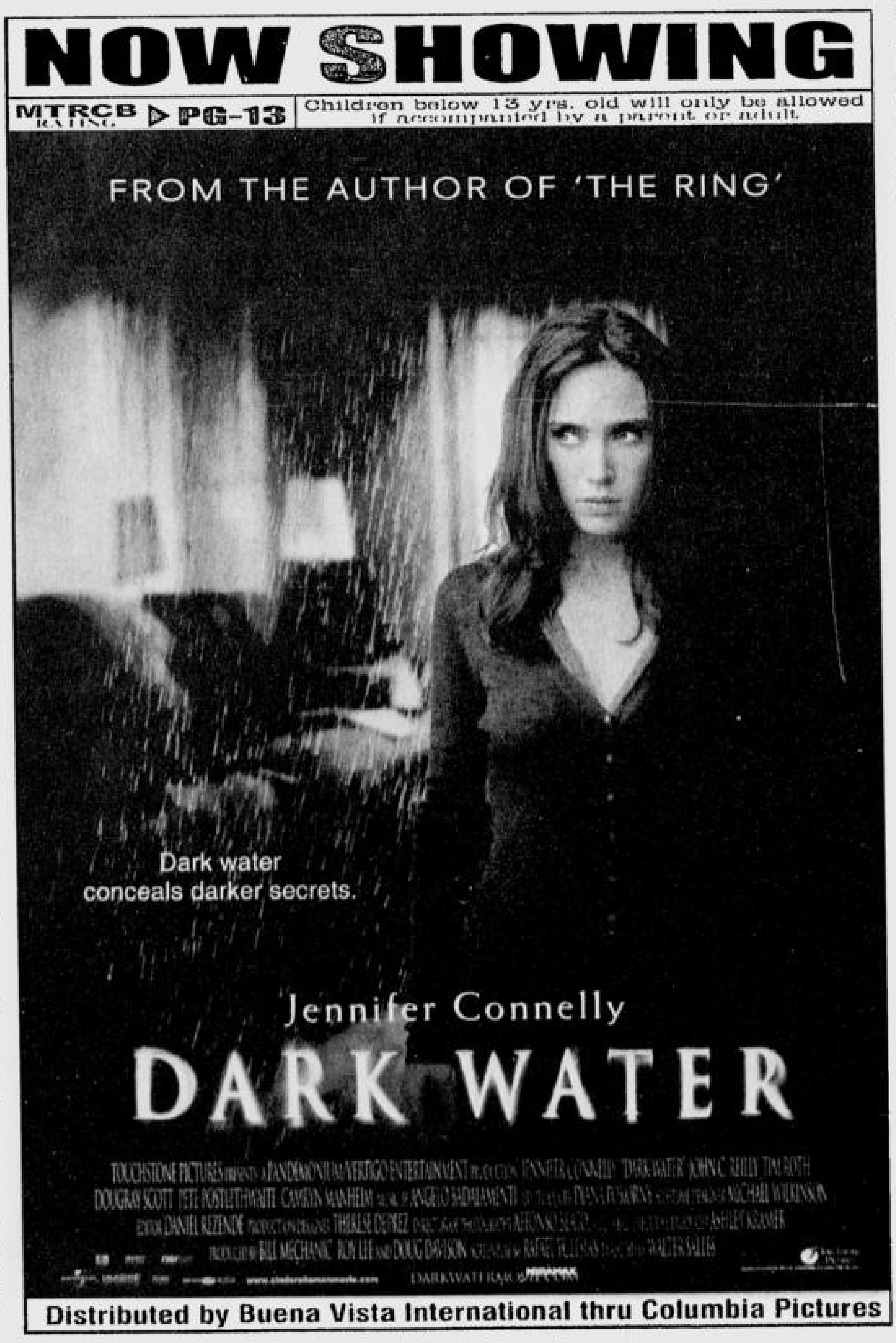
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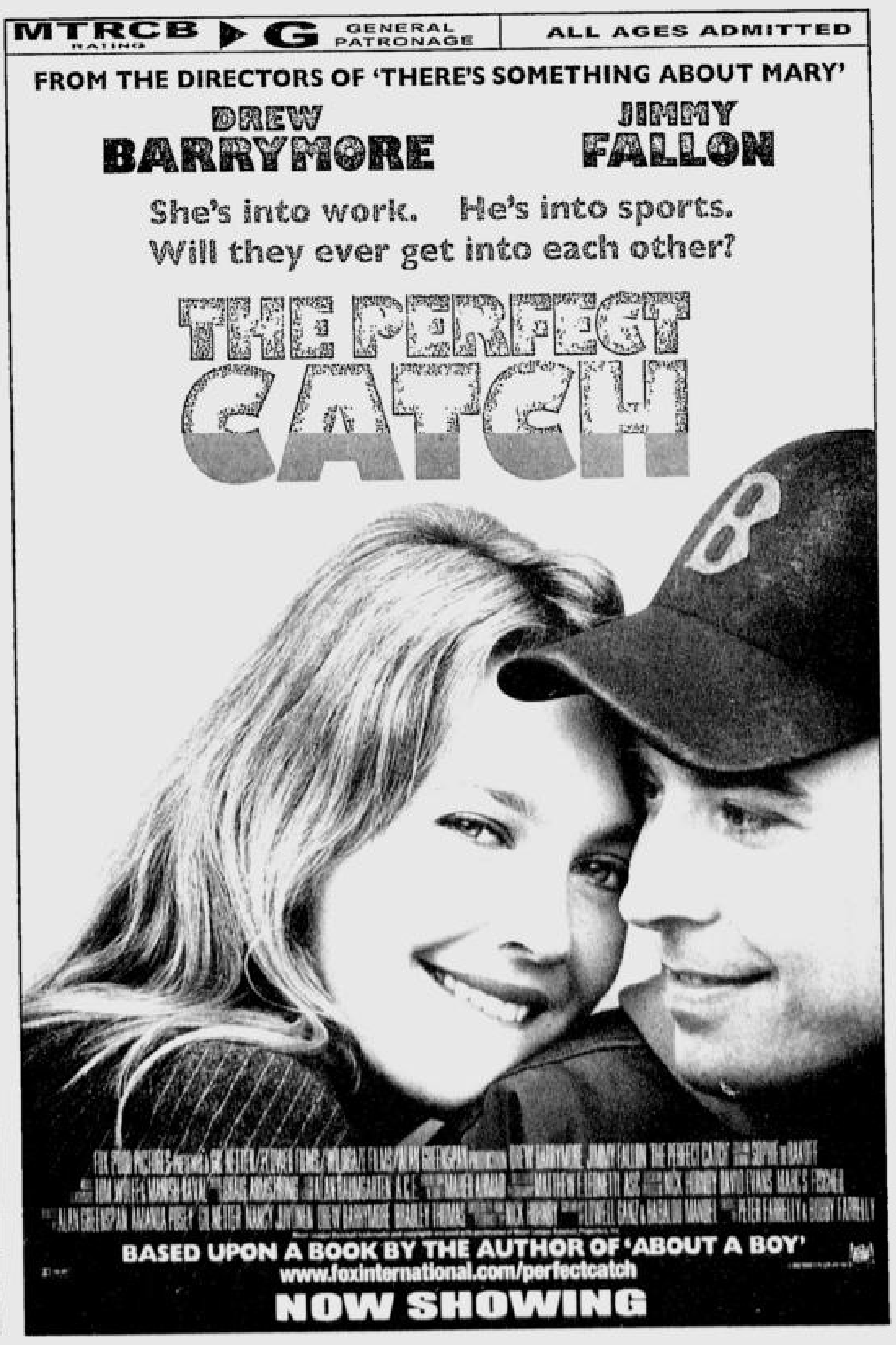
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SEPT 10 SM MANILA, CINEMA 12
SEPT 17 SM SAN LAZARO, CINEMA 1
SEPT 24 SM STA MESA, CINEMA 1
OCT 01 SM MEGAMALL, CINEMA 3

12:00 to 2:30 PM SCREENING
howie severino PANTASYA NG BAYAN
jay taruc BASURERO
kara david HILING PRINSESA
sandra aguinaldo IKAPITONG KASAL
raffy tima THE DOCTOR IS OUT OF TOWN
OPEN FORUM WITH HOSTS

4:00 to 6:00 PM SCREENING
raffy tima TIPO KONG BABAE
kara david BUTO'T BALAT
sandra aguinaldo BUHAT GINHAWA
jay taruc U-BET
howie severino SAFARI
OPEN FORUM WITH HOSTS

GMA

SM CINEMA movietime DIGITAL
See their best episodes on the big screen and be part of the open forum with hosts
Kara David
Sandra Aguinaldo
Raffy Tima
Jay Taruc
and
Howie Severino
ADMISSION IS FREE
Sept. 10 SM Manila Cinema 12
Sept. 17 SM San Lazaro Cinema 1
Sept. 24 SM Sta. Mesa Cinema 1
Oct. 01 SM Megamall Cinema 3

SM CINEMA CENTER Stage
NORTH EDSA
South Border
AT LARGE
October 7, 2005
8:00pm / Cinema 1

MEGAMALL
TRUMPETS
LITTLE MERMAID
September 13-17, 20-24
Cinema 10

SM CINEMA movietime RED CARPET PREMIER
MEGAMALL
DUBAI
Cinema 2, 3, & 4
September 27, 2005
7:30 pm

MANILA
UNDISCOVERED
Cinema 6
September 30, 2005
7:30 pm

SM movietime
FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 CONSTANT GARDENER
12:00FS/12:30MF/03:15/06:05
08:20LFS/09:00LMF11:15END
2 PERFECT CATCH
11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40
08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
11:30FS/11:40MF/01:38/03:36/05:34/07:32
09:22LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END
3 CINDERELLA MAN
11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00
09:23LFS/09:30LMF/11:55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 REX NAVARETE SHOW
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
5 DARK WATER
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 LAND OF THUNDER
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 CINDERELLA MAN
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 LOVESTRUCK
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 SOUND OF THUNDER
6 BLADE OF THE ROSE
7 DARK WATER
8 LOVESTRUCK
9 PERFECT CATCH
10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 THE CAVE
12 RED EYE

SM NORTH EDSA
1 DARK WATER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CONSTANT GARDENER
5 LAND OF THE DEAD
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 PERFECT CATCH
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY STA MESA
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 DARK WATER
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 THE CAVE
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 PERFECT CATCH
10 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 DARK WATER
4 SOUND OF THUNDER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 CONSTANT GARDENER
7 BLADE OF THE ROSE
8 BROTHERS GRIMM
9 THE CAVE
10 CINDERELLA MAN

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE CAVE
2 CONSTANT GARDENER
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
5 LAZARUS CHILD
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 LONG WEEKEND
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 THE CROW 4:I WICKED PRAYER
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 DARK WATER

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DARK WATER
2 SOUND OF THUNDER
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
4 DARK WATER

SM SAN LAZARO
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 DARK WATER
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 SOUND OF THUNDER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 LOVESTRUCK

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 RED EYE
5 LONGEST YARD
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SKY HIGH
2 VALIANT
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LONG WEEKEND
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 DARK WATER
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 SOUND OF THUNDER
6 RED EYE
7 THE CAVE
8 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONG WEEKEND
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 RED EYE

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CINDERELLAMAN

SM CITY LUCENA
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 RED EYE
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 RED EYE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 LONGEST YARD
4 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 VALIANT
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 SKY HIGH
7 SOUND OF THUNDER
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 ICE PRINCESS
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE CAVE
7 RESERVED
8 RED EYE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
3 SKY HIGH
4 RED EYE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE CAVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

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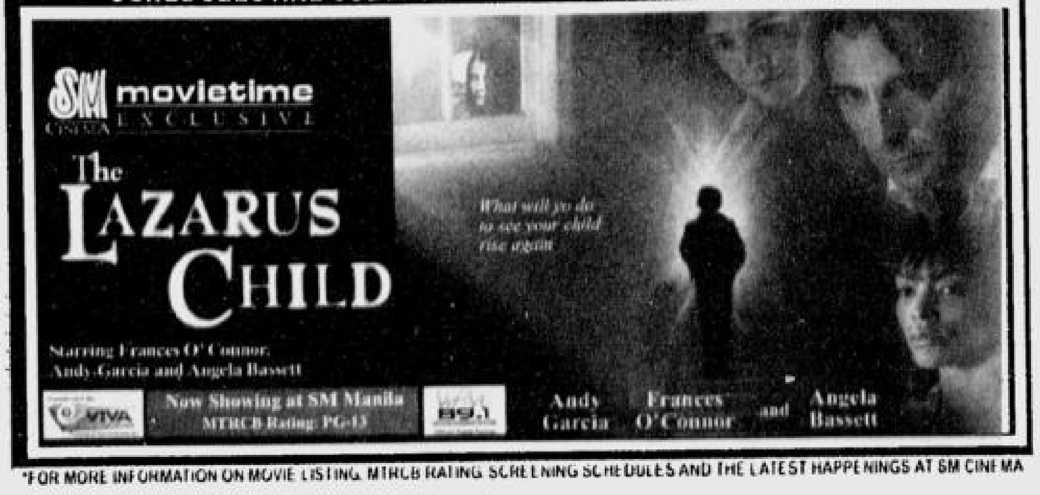

SM movietime EXCLUSIVE
The LAZARUS CHILD
What will you do to see your child rise again
Starring Frances O'Connor, Andy Garcia and Angela Bassett
Now Showing at SM Manila
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
Andy Garcia Frances O'Connor and Angela Bassett

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 CINE EUROPA 8
2 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
MTRCB PG-13
1.25, 4.00, 6.35, 9.10 LMF
3 THE PERFECT CATCH
MTRCB GP
12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00 LMF
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
MTRCB R-13
12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00 LMF
PREMIERE THEATRE DARK WATER
MTRCB PG-13 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00 LMF
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SCHEDULE OF FILMS

September 22
7:00pm Millions, Twinni

September 23
1:00pm Step by Step
4:00pm Villa des Roses
7:00pm Buttoners
10:00pm Dog Nail Clipper

September 24
1:00pm The Spanish Apartment
4:00pm Kroko
7:00pm I Love to Love
10:00pm A Man Not Wanted

September 25
1:00pm Twinni
4:00pm Millions
7:00pm Extranjeras
10:00pm Faithless

September 26
4:00pm Twinni
7:00pm Step by Step
10:00pm Villa des Roses

September 27
4:00pm Buttoners
7:00pm Dog Nail Clipper
10:00pm The Spanish Apartment

September 28
4:00pm A Man Not Wanted
7:00pm Dying To Go Home
10:00pm Kroko

September 29
1:00pm I Love to Love
4:00pm Faithless
7:00pm A Man Not Wanted
10:00pm Extranjeras

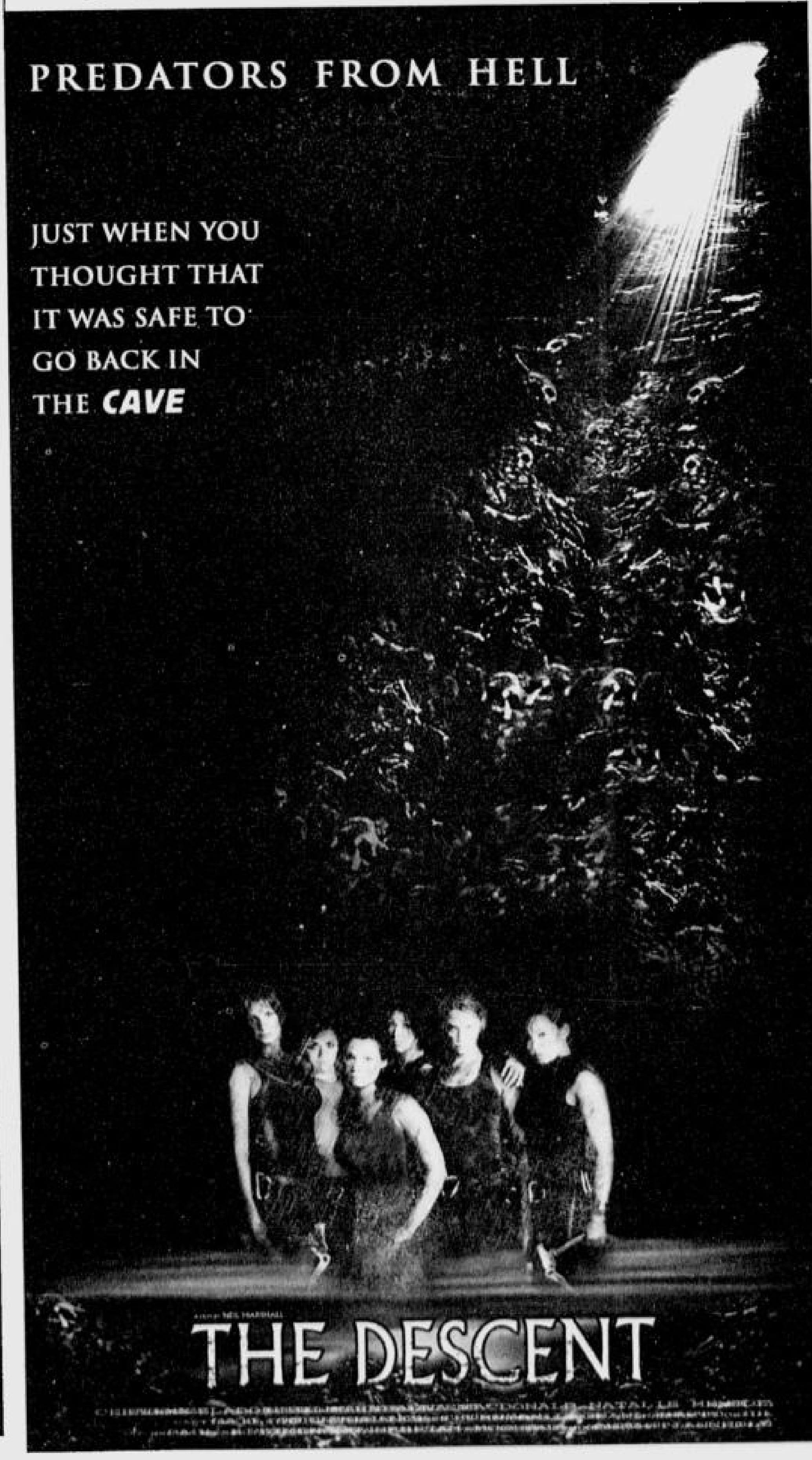
September 30
1:00pm Villa Des Roses
4:00pm Step by Step
7:00pm The Spanish Apartment
10:00pm Buttoners

October 1
1:00pm Extranjeras
4:00pm Dying To Go Home
7:00pm Kroko
10:00pm I Love to Love

October 2
1:00pm Millions
4:00pm Dog Nail Clipper
7:00pm Faithless
10:00pm Dying To Go Home

FREE ADMISSION For more info, call 6332227 (Shang Cineplex)
24/7 UP EURO

OPENS SEPT. 28



PREDATORS FROM HELL
JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT THAT IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK IN THE CAVE
THE DESCENT

Yanks lead as Big Unit struts stuff

NEW YORK—RANDY JOHNSON LIMITED THE Baltimore Orioles to three hits over eight innings and Matt Lawton broke out of a long slump with a two-run homer that carried the New York Yankees to a 2-1 victory on Wednesday.

New York, which won for the ninth time in 10 games, took over the American League East division lead by a half-game over Boston, which lost at Tampa Bay.

Johnson (15-8) didn't allow a hit until the fifth inning and didn't give up a run until the sixth, when Melvin Mora hit a long RBI double.

Lawton, acquired from the Chicago Cubs on Aug. 27, had been hitless in 19 at-bats, his longest slide in two years, and had not homered since Aug. 29. Hideki Matsui singled off Rodrigo Lopez (14-11) with one out in the second and Lawton hit a two-out drive just over the wall in right, his fifth hit in 42 at-bats with New York.

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Tampa Bay rallied for five runs in the eighth inning to knock defending world champion Boston out of first place in the AL East, 7-4.

Jorge Cantu chased Boston starter Tim Wakefield with a two-out RBI single, and Jonny Gomes' two-run triple off Mike Timlin (7-3) put the last-place Devil Rays ahead, 5-4. *AP*

Bonds tallies 707th homer

WASHINGTON—BARRY BONDS CONTINUED to boost San Francisco's playoff hopes, as he belted his fourth home run of the season to help the Giants to a 5-1 victory over the Washington Nationals.

Bonds smacked a two-run homer and rookie pitcher Brad Hennessey homered and allowed one run in 7 2/3 innings.

Bonds got the Giants on the board in the first inning with a two-run shot—his fourth straight game with a homer and second consecutive contest he has reached the upper deck at RFK Stadium.

It was the 707th homer of Bonds' career as he continues to move closer to icon Babe Ruth at No. 2 on the major league all-time list.

Bonds, whose season didn't start until September as he recovered from knee surgery, is now seven home runs away from matching Ruth, with Hank Aaron's record of 755 further out. *AFP*

Pasay 4-stag derby today

SIXTY-FOUR exciting matches will spice up the battle for championship today in Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association's (PCCA) 4-stag derby at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Among the favorites are the entries of Eddie de los Santos, Pepito Ngo, tabloid executive Rey Briones, Boy Royo, Pol Estrellado, Ferdie Eusebio, Joey Lapid, Jack Chung, Jun and Anthony Marasigan, Tonette Luzzuriaga, Joel Fernando, Jake Macasaet, Madlambayan Brothers, Arman Santos and Ramon Mancenares. This will be the second PCCA stagfest this year. Boy Layag (BL Gemini) and Jack Chung (JNL Farms) topped the first leg last Sept. 9.

Palaban tilt tomorrow

QUALIFIERS to Rollgon Mega Cockpit's "Ika-10 Taong Palaban 6-Stag Derby" must submit their entries today from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The championship round (4-stag) will start at 2 p.m. tomorrow. "Please take note that there will be no more fights on Sept. 27 as originally scheduled," said derby host Edgar Coronel. Qualified to compete are participants with 0, 1, 1.5 and 2 points. The total guaranteed prize is P1.5 million. For inquiries, contact 8331638, 8512275 and 8529812. Meanwhile, screening of entries for the "Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby" will be on Sunday. The derby is set on Oct. 15, 17 and 19 with P1.3 million on the line.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CINDERELLA MAN **PG13** 12:45,3:45,6:45,9:45	**CONSTANT GARDENER** **PG13** 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	**DARK WATER** **PG13** 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15
LAND OF THE DEAD **R13** 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50	**BLADE OF THE ROSE** **PG13** 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	**PERFECT CATCH** **GP** 11:35,1:45,3:55, 6:05,8:15,10:25

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	**LAND OF THE DEAD** 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00 PG-13
2	**PERFECT CATCH** 1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00 GP
3	**DARK WATER** 1:05, 3:35, 6:05 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
4	**CONSTANT GARDENER** 11:40, 2:25, 5:10 7:55, 10:40 PG-13

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

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CINEMA 1	**LAND OF THE DEAD - R13** 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
CINEMA 2	**BLADE OF THE ROSE - PG13** 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS

...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3	**CONSTANT GARDENER-PG13** 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 4	**DARK WATER PG13** 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
CINEMA 5	**PERFECT CATCH GP** 11:35, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

Sept 22,23,24	JUAQUIN & FAITH CUNETA "ONE"	9PM
October 1, 2005	M Y M P	8:30PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

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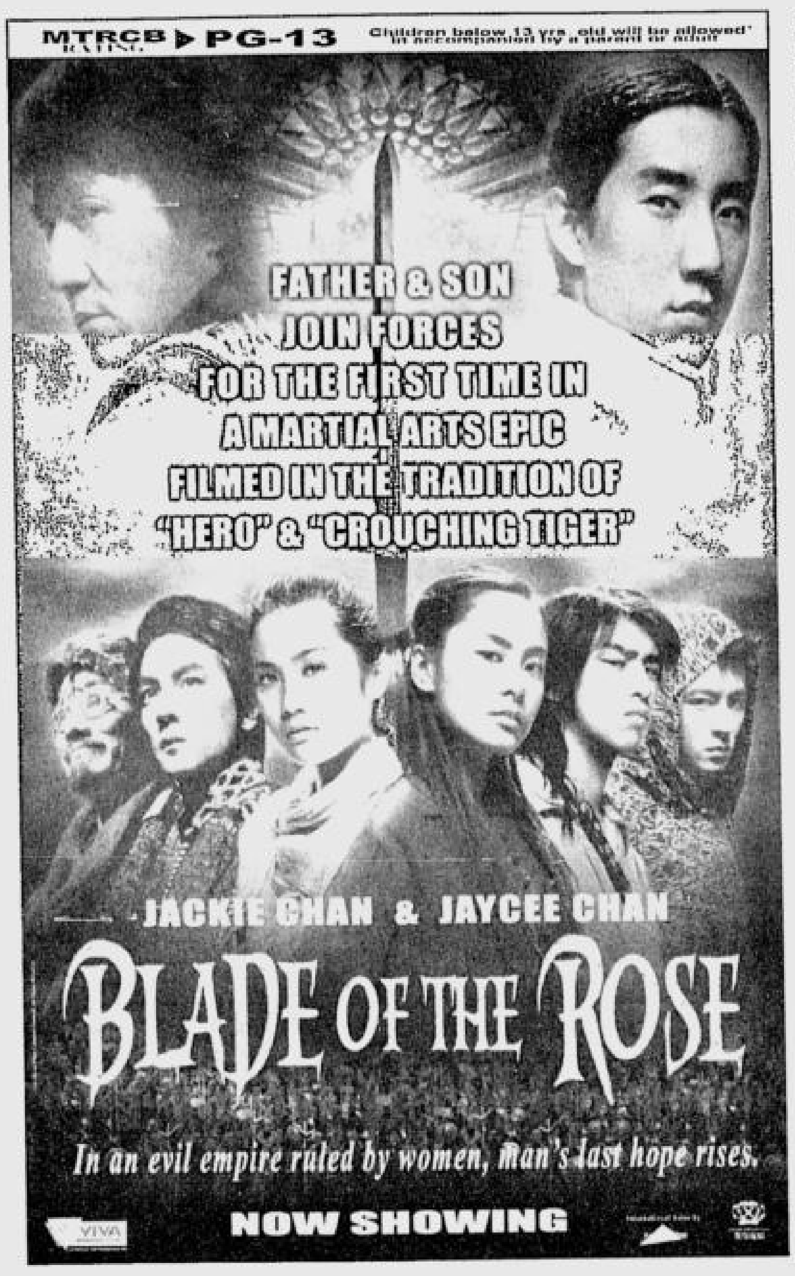
FATHER & SON
JOIN FORCES
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN
A MARTIAL ARTS EPIC
FILMED IN THE TRADITION OF
"HERO" & "CROUCHING TIGER"
JACKIE CHAN & JAYCEE CHAN
BLADE OF THE ROSE
In an evil empire ruled by women, man's last hope rises.
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VIVA

3RD WEEK

THE BIGGEST FILM FROM MIRAMAX FILLED WITH SPECIAL EFFECTS, ACTION & NON-STOP THRILLS

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NO CURSE WE CAN'T REVERSE
NO SPELL WE CAN'T BREAK
NO DEMON WE CAN'T EXTERMINATE
MATT DAMON
HEATH LEDGER MONICA BELLUCCI LENA HEADY
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OPENS OCTOBER 5!

Johnny Depp
Helena Bonham Carter
There's been a grave misunderstanding.
TIM BURTON'S
Corpse Bride
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MTRCB RATING **R-13** STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

THE LEGENDARY FILMMAKER BRINGS YOU HIS ULTIMATE ZOMBIE MASTERPIECE
GEORGE A. ROMERO'S
LAND OF THE DEAD
Stay Scared!
united international pictures
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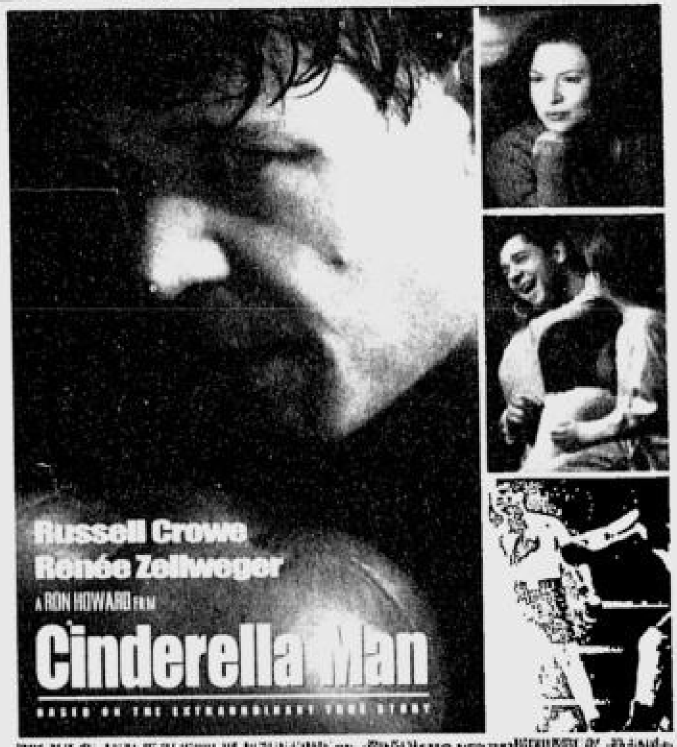
"ABSOLUTELY THE BEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR SO FAR. BY FAR."

Gene Shalit, THE TODAY SHOW


Russell Crowe
Renée Zellweger
A RON HOWARD FILM
Cinderella Man
BASED ON THE EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORY

EBERT & ROEPER

"Two Thumbs Way Up."

"Rousing, thrilling and inspirational."
RICHARD ROEPER, Ebert & Roeper

PREMIERE

"★★★★ Top-Notch Entertainment."

Glenn Kenny

LARRY KING

"One Of The Best Movies Ever!

Russell Crowe and Renée Zellweger are magnificent. Ron Howard's "direction is picture perfect."

NEW YORK MAGAZINE

"A Terrific Movie.

Men and women are all going to be cheering lustily and weeping "happily over 'Cinderella Man."

Ken Tucker

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NOW SHOWING

"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF 2005!" – ROGER EBERT CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

A DEADLY PLAGUE THREATENS THE WORLD.
A GLOBAL CATASTROPHE THAT WILL COST MILLIONS OF LIVES.
RALPH FIENNES
RACHEL WEISZ
THE CONSTANT GARDENER
BASED ON THE STORY BY ACCLAIMED-BRITISH SPY NOVELIST JOHN LE CARRÉ

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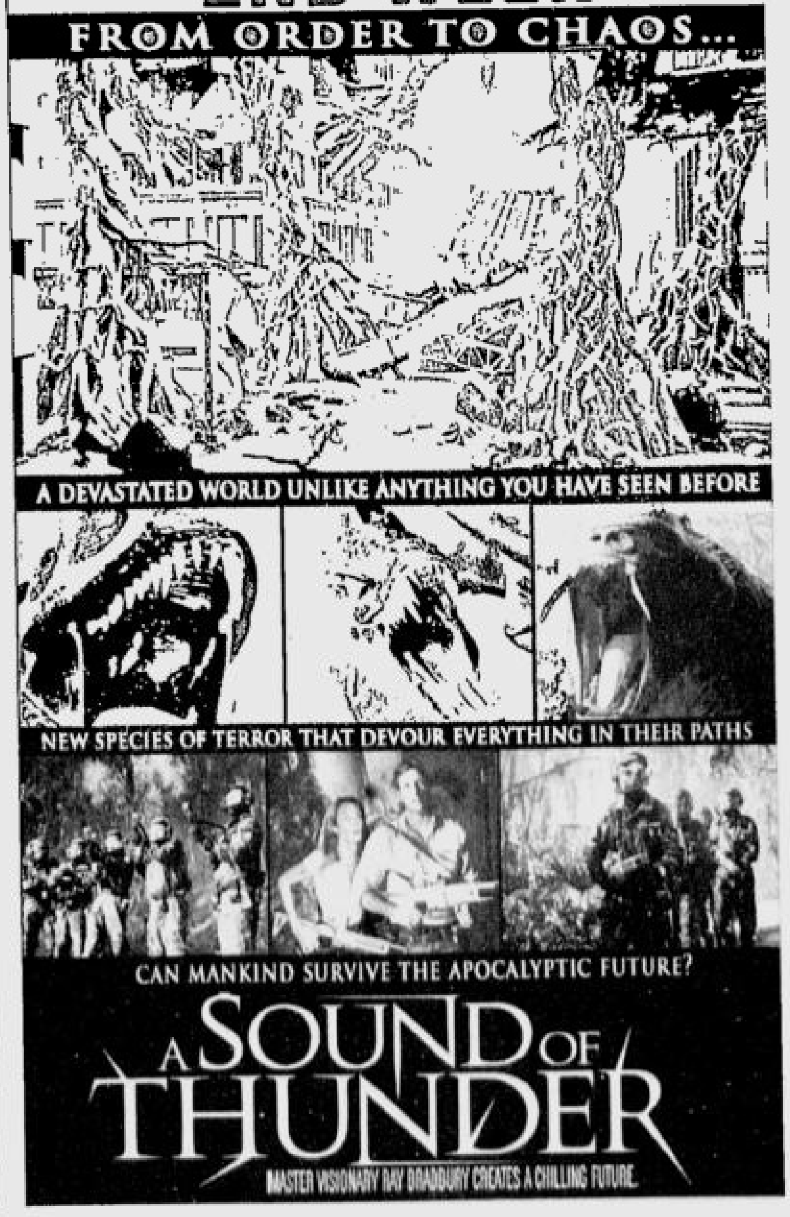
2ND WEEK


FROM ORDER TO CHAOS...
A DEVASTATED WORLD UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU HAVE SEEN BEFORE
NEW SPECIES OF TERROR THAT DEVOUR EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATHS
CAN MANKIND SURVIVE THE APOCALYPTIC FUTURE?
A SOUND OF THUNDER
MASTER VISIONARY RAY BRADBURY CREATES A CHILLING FUTURE.

SPORTS

ROGER MARGALLO

FRANCES BONDAD lines her putt during her first practice session with the RP women's team to the Southeast Asian Games at Villamor yesterday. She arrived from Australia Wednesday, two weeks after acquiring a Philippine passport.

NBC Q'FINAL PLAYOFFS

Valencia five stuns Mantawi

VALENCIA CITY—Valencia Golden Harvest pulled the rug from under favored Mantawi Sparkling Nights, 91-84, Wednesday in Game 1 of their best-of-three quarterfinal series in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the packed city gym here.

Speedy playmaker Julius Navales keyed the victory for Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers with 22 points, 12 coming from beyond the 3-point arc, five assists and two rebounds.

Navales' back-to-back triples gave Valencia a 78-68 lead with 5:08 left. After the Hapee/Dewfoam-backed Sparkling Nights closed to 80-83 on the sallies of Jhayson Alminario, McDonald Santos and Marvin Tundag in the last 57 seconds, Joel Gragasin and Jimmy Taligatos made the insurance free throws.

"We thank the Lord for this victory. The boys' morale is very high," said Valencia coach Arvin Martinez, whose team led from start to finish.

Former Holy Cross of Davao bruiser Eliazar Berami and Frank Nailon backed up Navales with 17 and 13 points, respectively.

Mantawi coach Jun Noel is confident of staying alive in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Ardy Larong paced the third seed Mantawi with 16 points, six boards and one block while Dennis Daa had 14 points and nine rebounds.

The scores:

VALENCIA 91—Navales 22, Berami 17, Nailon 13, Cabili 9, Taligatos 7, Cruz 7, Gragasin 4, Adams 3, Bayron 2, Bagares 0, Clavel 0, Cesar 0.

MANTAWI 84—Larong 16, Daa 14, Alminario 13, Carretas 10, Santos 9, Tundag 6, Huelar 6, Gloria 4, Moreno 4, Bajenting 2.

Quarters: 31-19, 49-46, 66-56, 91-84

Hazards of pro boxing

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE BRAIN DAMAGE SUFfered by boxer Leavander Johnson in a recent fight held at the MGM Grand hotel-casino in Las Vegas is a grim reminder of the violence and danger inherent in professional boxing.

Oddly, the Johnson incident did not receive much media attention. Is it only when a fighter dies in the ring that the public is scandalized and the editorial writers and legislators move to condemn the brutality of pro boxing? And then, when the rage is forgotten, what is left?

Johnson, the 35-year-old champion then defending his International Boxing Federation lightweight title against hard-punching Jesus Chavez, took at least two dozen unanswered punches to the head while on the ropes before referee Tony Weeks stepped in to stop the bout 38 seconds into the 11th round.

After the fight, Johnson said atop the ring that, "I'm all right," but he later collapsed in his dressing room. Johnson was rushed to the University Medical City where he underwent emergency brain surgery and, last Monday (Sunday in Las Vegas), was in a drug-induced coma.

Pro boxing used to be a sport I loved. After more than three decades as a boxing aficionado, boxing writer, international judge and son-in-law to a former champion, who died from an illness which was mostly connected to the pounding he took in the ring, I can say that I have been around. Still, I walked away from it on moral and medical grounds.

On moral grounds, I've had enough of greedy promoters, frequent mismatches, falsified records, rigged ratings and whisperings of corruption. I want no part of it and, following my conscience, refused to be identified with it any longer.

On medical grounds, I have written several times in the past about the hazards inherent in the sport, its abuses and lack of stringent safety measures that could leave the boxers permanently disabled or dead.

Writer A.O. Flores once said, "Boxers don't have to die to underscore the brutality of the sport. Look at all those who have been maimed for life or reduced to stuttering derelicts like "The Greatest of Them All, Muhammad Ali."

A victim of Parkinson's syndrome, Ali is a pathetic sight nowadays. He is puffy, walks slowly, almost deliberately, and speaks in half-completed tones. Too many blows to the head and body had exacerbated Ali's physical problems.

A few months ago after talking to Ali, boxing diehard Dr. Nelson Richards, president of the American Academy of Neurology, said, "I was struck that Ali, who previously was known for his glibness, was almost unintelligible. I changed my mind. Boxing should be banned."

But a ban on pro boxing is not a practical solution.

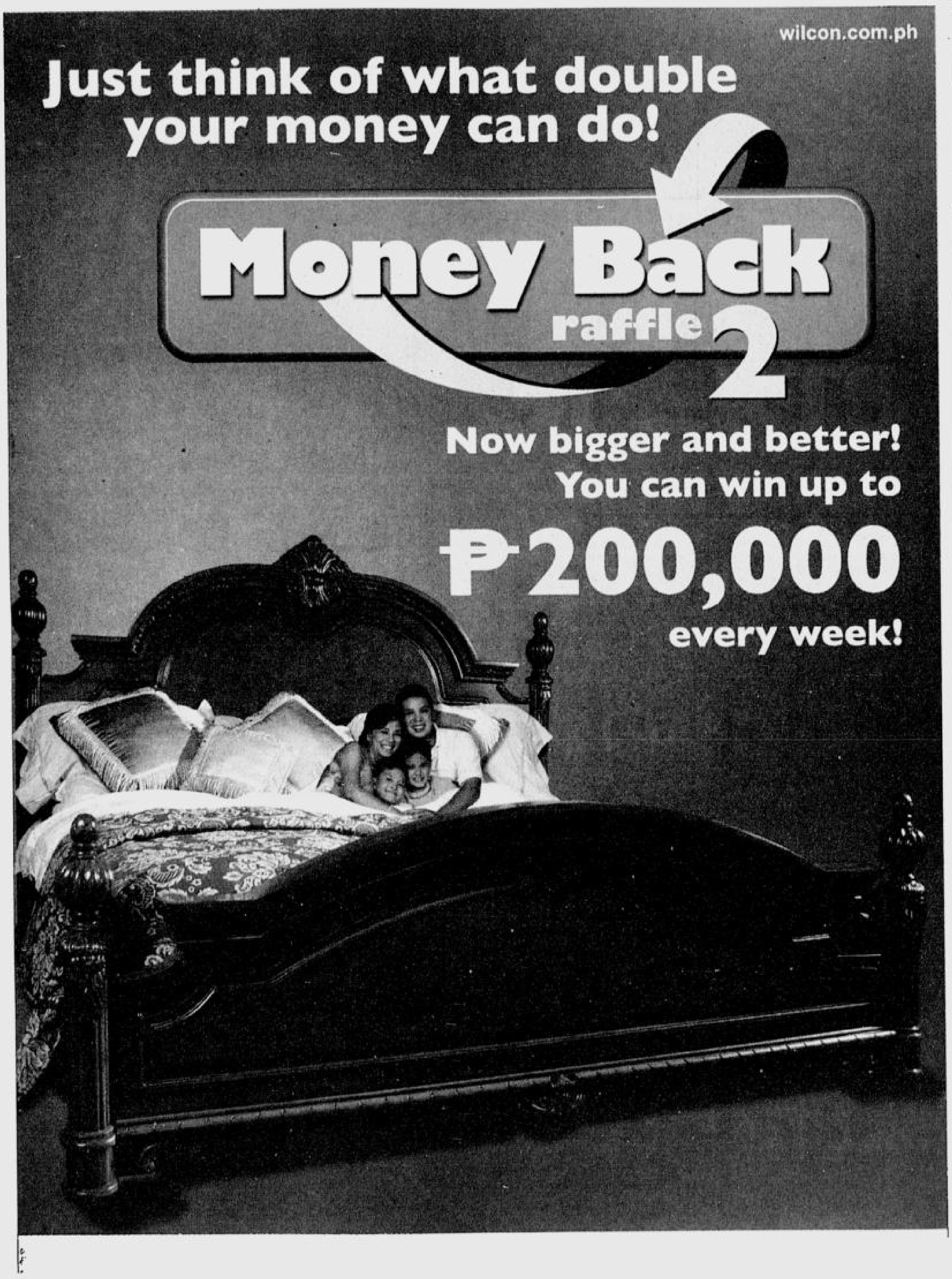
I was taken aback by the statement made by the wife of a popular boxer during a recent televised show. Asked to choose between a boxing career and the movies for her boxer-husband, the wife chose the former.

'I hope she changes her mind.

The medical evidence against boxing is overwhelming. Boxers continue to die or suffer long-term brain damage. In the Philippines, more than 18 boxers have died since 1979 while many more, including those unreported to the Games and Amusements Board, have suffered serious brain injuries.

Explaining the dangers of boxing to the brain, James Tye, director general of the British Safety Council, said, "The brain is like a blancmange, a gelatin-like rubbery pudding. Every time a blow [to the head] is struck, the brain cracks against the inside of the hard skull, and it has the effect of numbing the brain or causing permanent brain damage."

This surely proves that pro boxing no longer has a place in civilized society because it endangers human life. Pro boxing is "institutionalized violence," said Flores.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Just think of what double your money can do!
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Now bigger and better! You can win up to ₱200,000 every week!

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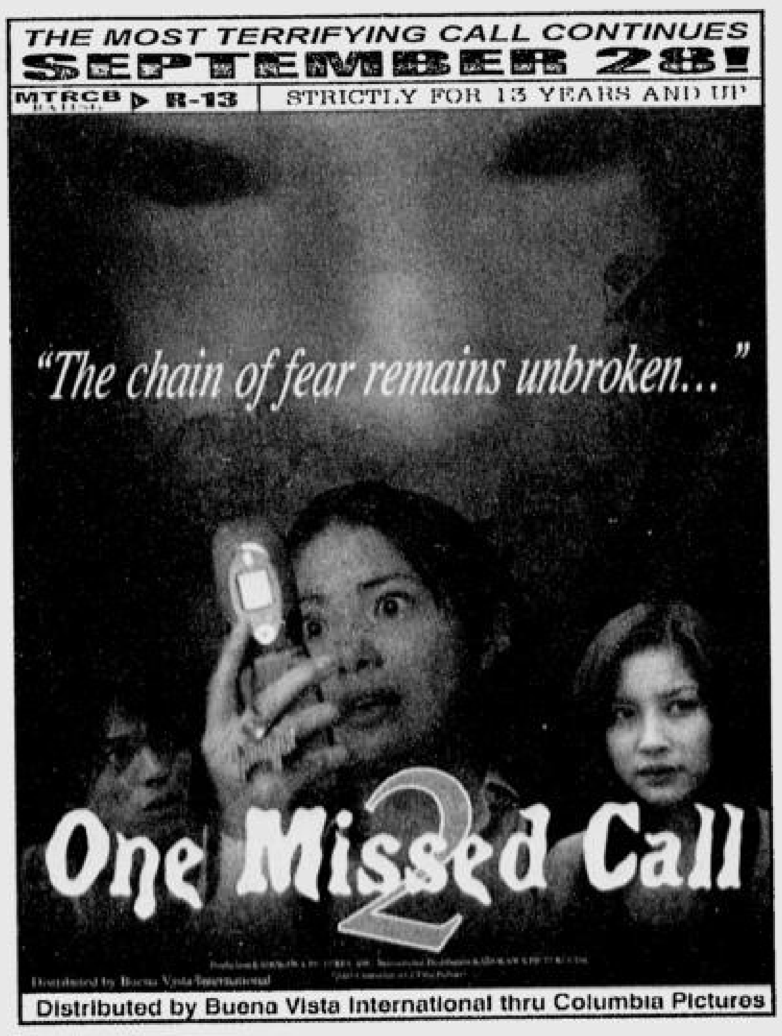
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ENTERTAINMENT

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MiG: I gave it my all

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

LOS ANGELES—IN THE END, INXS decided to go with a former Elvis Presley impersonator.

J.D. Fortune was picked by the Australian band as its new lead singer after 11 weeks of search in a TV reality show that began with 15 rock star aspirants from all over the world, including Filipino-Australian MiG Ayesa. In a morning taping Tuesday at the CBS Studios for the show titled "Rock Star: INXS," the three remaining contestants—MiG, J.D. and Marty Casey—vied for the opportunity to cut an album with INXS and go on a world concert tour with them. As the top finalists, each of the three guys received a new Honda Civic.

The first round required MiG, J.D. and Marty to sing a song of their choice from all the songs performed during the season. MiG was the first to sing with "Bohemian Rhapsody," which he sang as the lead actor in a London musical production on the rock band, Queen. J.D. came next with the Rolling Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want" while Marty sang last with Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here."

After a long session of deliberations by INXS, MiG was cut from the final two. He was visibly shaken but he quickly recovered. He cheered J.D. and Marty on as they duked it out.

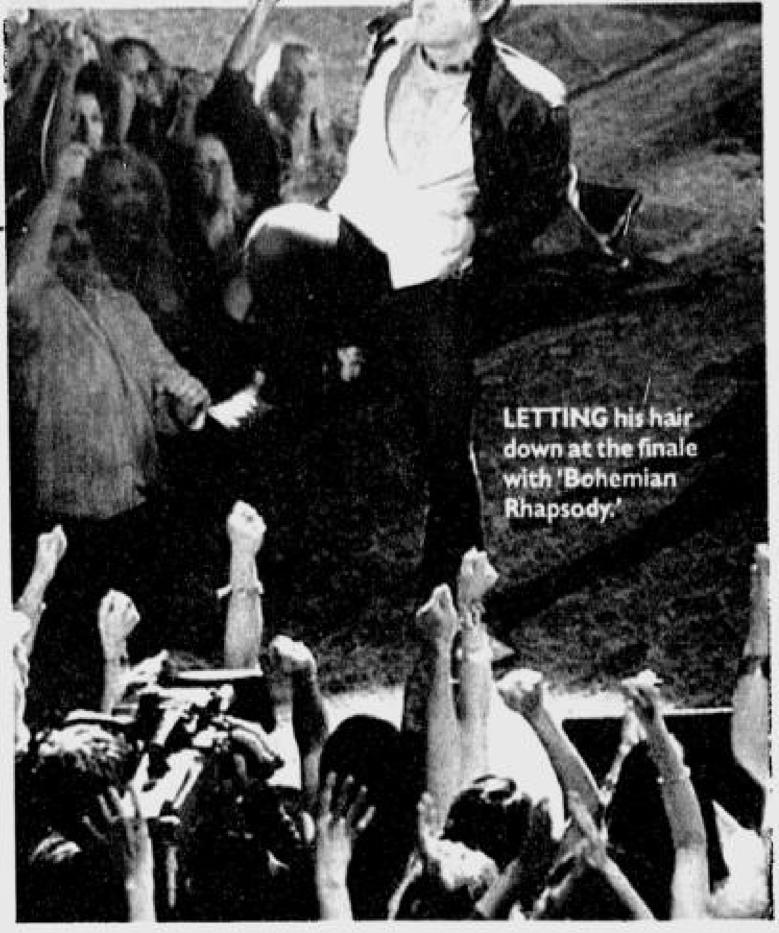
The final challenge involved the two remaining contestants singing an INXS song, with the band itself playing onstage.

J.D. emerged the winner after an equally long period of deliberations by the Aussie band.

INQUIRER Entertainment had an exclusive interview with MiG after the show. MiG walked back into the studio as he finished eating a small bowl of sliced fruits. Asked if he was aware of the tremendous support of Filipinos who propped him up in the weekly online and text voting, MiG replied, "I had an inkling that I was getting support from the Philippines because ... most of my votes always came from Aústralia and Asia. I knew it had to come from the Philippines and Filipinos from all over the world."

As for his reaction when he was eliminated, the genial rocker said, "I felt relieved in a way because I just wanted to make it to the finals. I thought all of my fans, all the people who voted for me, deserved to be given everything that I had [so] I gave everything that I could. I could do no better. Whether INXS wanted to choose me or not, that was not up for me to decide. In a way, I knew I was the underdog going into the finals. In competing against J.D. and Marty, I knew that I

MiG/ A2-3


LETTING his hair down at the finale with 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'

ROUNDUP

Chin-Chin joins 'MUP'

CHIN-Chin Gutierrez becomes the latest *kapamilya* to join ABS-CBN's daily morning show, "Magandang Umaga, Pilipinas," with her own segment titled "Green Patrol."

Every Thursday, Chin-Chin makes the rounds of barangays to check on waste management, and shares tips to help every household adopt a "zero-waste" lifestyle.

Time Magazine proclaimed the actress, singer and "green warrior" as one of its "Asian Heroes" in 2003 for using her celebrity to support environmental causes.

Oprah wins tabloid war

CHICAGO—The tabloid war between Oprah Winfrey and French luxury retailer Hermes International ended in a victory for the talk show diva Monday when the company's president of US operations apologized.

Winfrey, recently named the most powerful celebrity in the US by Forbes magazine, instigated a boycott after she was turned away from a Hermes store in Paris in June.

Oprah was convinced it was because she was black.

On Monday, she explained why she made such a fuss: "Everybody's who has ever been snubbed ... know that it is very humiliating."

Oprah lifted the boycott after Robert Chavez, president and CEO of Hermes USA, told her the store had since introduced sensitivity training. AFP

Fans boo Madonna

LONDON—Madonna and her filmmaker husband, Guy Ritchie, were booed at the premiere of his new movie "Revolver" on Tuesday after the couple walked past most of the crowd without signing autographs.

The film's star, Jason Statham, spent an hour signing away in Leicester Square, but the couple had only brief contact with the crowd of some 2,000 fans. AP

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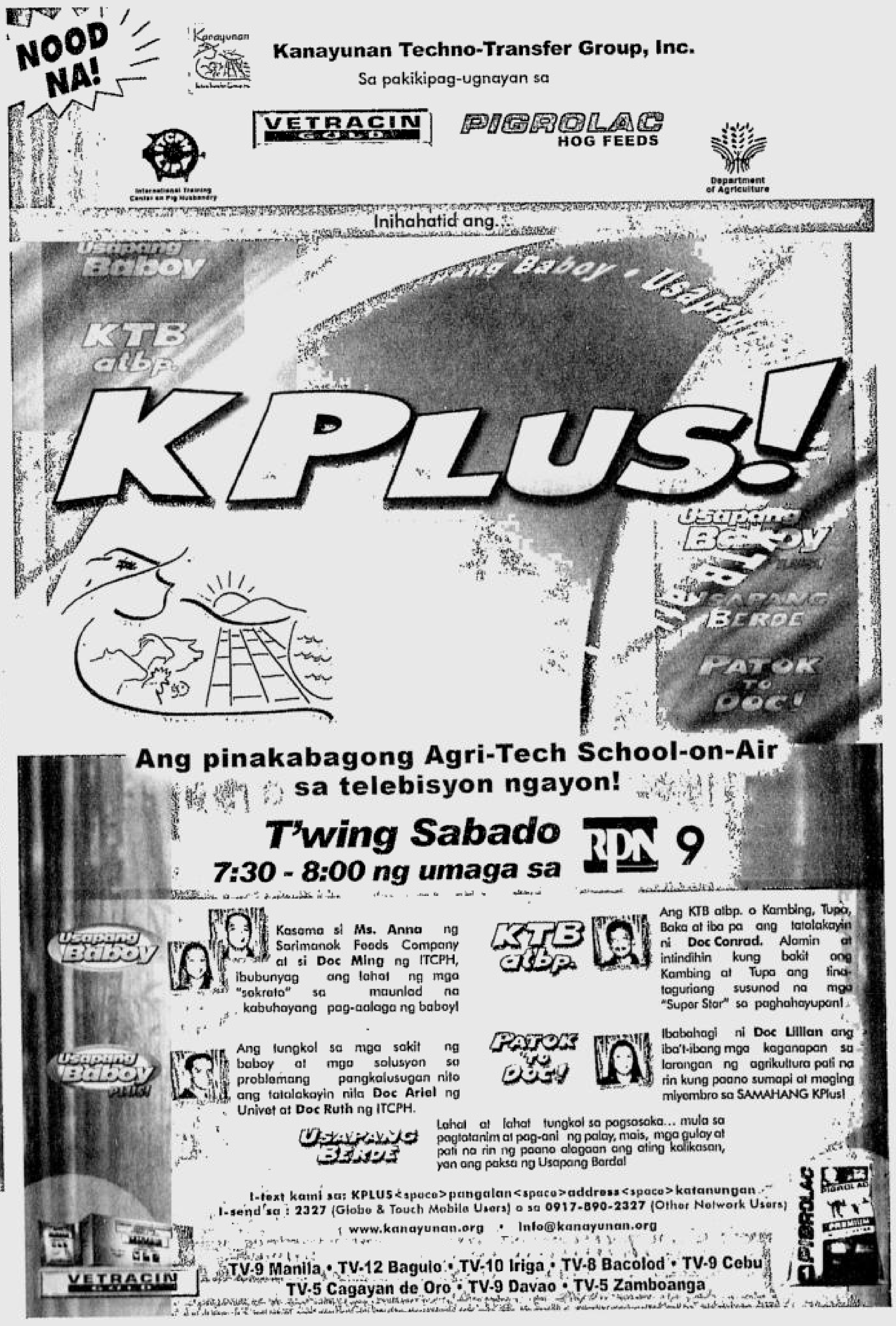
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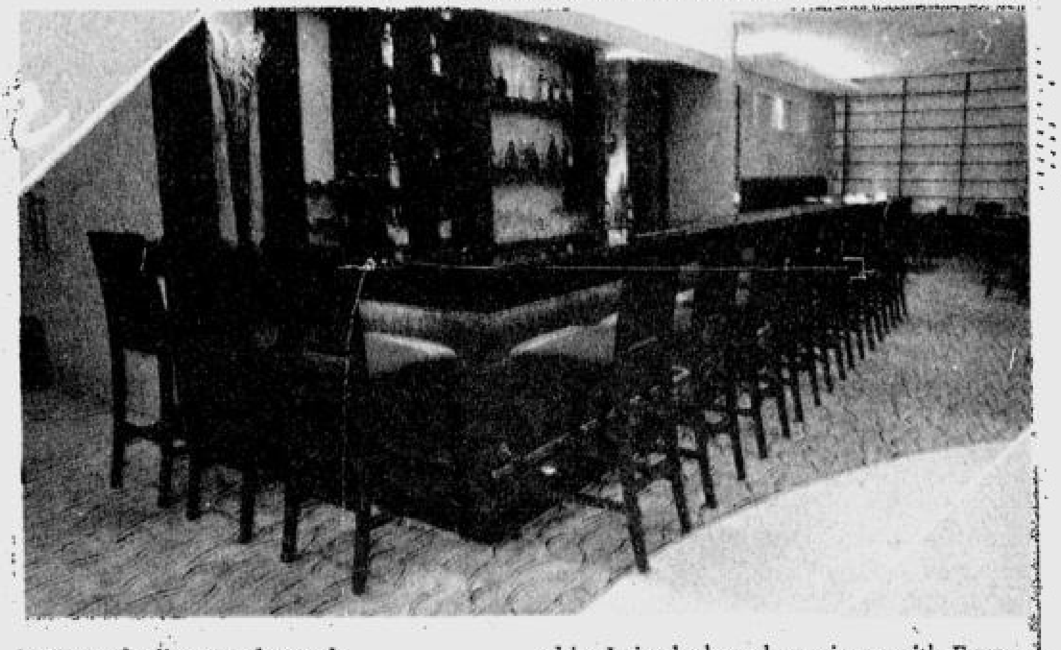
Manila Pavilion Hotel opens

Boulvar



A PLACE TO PASS THE TIME, EASE around, and quite essentially, a place to relax and let loose. These are the words that define a lounge. It refers to a generic place but with the Manila Pavilion Hotel's lobby lounge, the hotel's newest attraction, the case is anything but generic.

Built along with the newly refurbished lobby, Manila Pavilion Hotel's lobby lounge was christened Boulvar to indicate that the place has got a personality all on its own. Derived from the French word boulevard, which means wide city street, Boulvar was thus named to signify that it is the absolute spot where all of Manila's cultural and economic districts converge. And it is more than just a place to sit around on. Apart from its outstandingly stylish ambiance, Boulvar offers delectable dishes and rousing drinks over which simple get-togethers and business dealings can be made.

Boulvar greatly complements Manila Pavilion Hotel's new lobby. While the latter has a classic, formal design, Boulvar is modern and chic. It is sleek and spacious, with European and Asian-inspired, earth-colored interiors that convey an elegant character entwined with a vivacious spirit.

THE PALM HOTELS CORPORATE OFFICERS

The Palm Hotels composed of Las Palmas Hotel, Palm Plaza Hotel and The Executive Plaza Hotel is celebrating their Foundation Day today, Sept. 23. Coincidentally it is also the 90th birthday of their chair, Dr. Lino Edralin Lim. The Palm Hotels is under the LEL Group of Companies. Shown in the photo are the corporate officers (from left): Ghie T. Gomez - corporate director of sales/ Palm Plaza Hotel resident manager, Dr. Lino Edralin Lim - chair (LEL Group of Companies), Connie A. Arles - corporate financial controller and Patty A. Martin - corporate executive housekeeper.

The mania is back at Fiesta San Miguel

DINERS CAN NOT STOP CRAVING for more, so Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel brings back the "Grilla Mania" this October and November. Fill your tummy with unlimited serving of prime meats and seafood for a hefty meal during lunchtime. Savor again the 'All Meat' (grilled chicken, pork or beef), 'Seafood Medley' (grilled fillet of lapu-lapu, shrimps, scallops and mussels), or 'Combo Grill' (mixed grilled and meat.)

Fiesta San Miguel also introduces 'Rice Galore,' a special offering that veers away from ordinary rice toppings. Feast on and feel the distinction of FSM's 'longganisa' rice, 'adobo' rice, 'tuyo' rice and the 'tapang usa' rice. Each rice topping is generously served with your favorite sidings and priced at only P280++.

Fiesta San Miguel is located at the ground floor of Dusit Hotel Nikko. For queries call 867-3333.

September treats

SINCE IT OPENED, CITY GARDEN HOTEL Makati, along Makati Avenue, has slowly gained the reputation of being the perfect hotel for businessmen, executives and individuals.

Its 160-well appointed Italian inspired rooms make for a comfortable stay, without keeping one totally away from it all. For as low as P1,350 per person based on twin sharing, all the rooms are equipped with the latest room amenities.

For dynamic meetings, lively reunions and treasured special occasions, its flexible function rooms that can accommodate from 10 to 250 persons, delectable selection of food and wide array of beverages, and its professional banquet staff will surely make it a memorable one. Banquet packages provide you with almost all the amenities you need for a hassle-free arrangements. Packages come for as low as P24,750+.

For one-on-one meetings and get-together, City Garden Hotel Makati has two restaurants that you can choose from. This month of September, Le Jardin Restaurant, with its warm and relaxing dining experience, and its more popular Roofdeck Bar and Grill that gives you a cozy dining experience with a great view of the Makati skyline, is offering its Chef's Special of "Ribs BBQ & Grills".

For the health and beauty buff City Garden Hotel Makati boasts of a well-equipped Health Club, a swimming pool and the Body & Face by Mendez Spa, to indulge on. A perfect way to relax.

City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com.

Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino Monsoon Holiday

ONE CANNOT DENY THAT THE RAINY DAYS ARE definitely here. But unarguably, there is one great way to warm up to this weather - cuddle up in a cozy room together with great company, looking at sights over looking the cityscape or for nature enthusiasts, a mountain view would be perfect. And we've just got the place for you. Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino (WCCHC) invites you to spend your Monsoon Holidays in style. Single or double occupancy for only P3,400 net per night in a Standard or Superior Room. This is already inclusive of a buffet breakfast for two at Café Uno, 10 percent discount in all Hotel owned restaurants, 10 percent discount on laundry and pressing services, free use of the swimming pool plus a complimentary Waterfront Hotels and Casinos jacket. A package definitely more than its worth. This treat is valid only until Sept. 30, for local residents only and prior reservations are needed. So sit back, relax and cuddle up with WCCHC's Monsoon Holiday, you'd wish this season were here to stay. For inquiries and reservations, you can call tel. no. (02) 761-4749 or (032) 232-6888 locals 8109, 8108, 8107 or 8132 or Manila Sales and Reservations office at (02) 687-0888. You can also visit the website at www.waterfronthotels.net.

People, Events & Products

Wholesome activities treat families at GSK event

IT WAS A DAY WELL SPENT INDEED for families of the media and other guests that one Saturday morning at The Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel. GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Mommy Academy put their resources together to come up with stimulating activities for kids and a relaxing break for the parents. The event, which launched GSK's Family Vaccines, was hosted by celebrity mothers Ces Oreña-Drilon and Suzi Entrata-Abrera. It focused on educating parents about the benefits of infant, children, and adult vaccination.

Celebrity mom Ruby Rodriguez also joined the celebration and gave some insightful tips on how to effectively safeguard the family's health. Dr. Sally Gatchalian and Dr. Anna Ong-Lim, gamely joined the crowd giving out balloons and candies to the kids. The two top doctors stressed the overall importance of family protection through immunization of every member of the family during their informative talks.

Apart from the exciting program, there were various booths, which appealed to the different members of the family.

To complete the family affair, doctors were available in the "Family Immunity Corner" to give free consultation and immunity assessment for each member of the family against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Overall, it was a weekend worth spending with the family courtesy of the people behind GSK Family Vaccines and Mommy Academy. GSK Family Vaccines is an innovative program that aims to raise awareness about the importance of vaccination for the entire family. Mommy Academy is a non-profit organization that advocates active parenting and childcare.

Coca-Cola stages Calories for a Cause

THE COCA-COLA FOUNDATION'S LATEST HEALTHY AND ACTIVE Lifestyle (HAL) initiative, Calories for a Cause: Burn Calories. Help Charities will allow you to do something good for your body and at the same time reach out and help. On Sept. 25, Sunday, the Activity Center of Market!Market at the Fort will be transformed into an arena of sorts with a central work out area and a number of pocket activities. Every hour, the nation's leading health club – Fitness First, will lead a work out session wherein the total calories burned by the participants will be converted in cash donation by Coca-Cola and given to the different specific beneficiary of the hour. The event is open to the general public. However, to take part in the work out sessions one must be 13 years old and above.

The Fil-Aussie 'Rock Star' finalist is 'relieved' that it's over, and is profuse with gratitude for his Filipino fans all over the world

From page A2-1

MiG thanks INQUIRER Entertainment
RUBEN V. NEPALES

was the one trying to get my head above the water. I sang 'Bohemian Rhapsody' the best that I could ever sing it. I was very happy with the way I did that but it wasn't enough for the INXS to think that I was for them."

He continued, "This competition is not about being the best singer. It's about being the best match for the band. If this competition were about being the best singer, then Ty Taylor would have won it. Think about that. It's something that I understand. I'm just relieved that this is all over for me because these three months have been very difficult—wonderful, too, but I don't ever want to do that again."

MiG did not regret his decision to sing "Bohemian Rhapsody."

"I'm very happy that I did it. The only reason that I didn't earlier was that I didn't want INXS to think that I was always going back to my roots of singing Queen. I wanted them to see that I was moving forward [and] I proved that. The finale was an opportunity for me to sing any song that I wanted without being judged for it. 'Bohemian Rhapsody' is probably one of the most difficult songs in the rock repertoire. I was showing that if I could sing that, I could sing anything. I don't think doing that song edged me out of the competition. I just think that maybe my personality, or my vocals, was different from what they [wanted]. I don't think it was about my song choice."

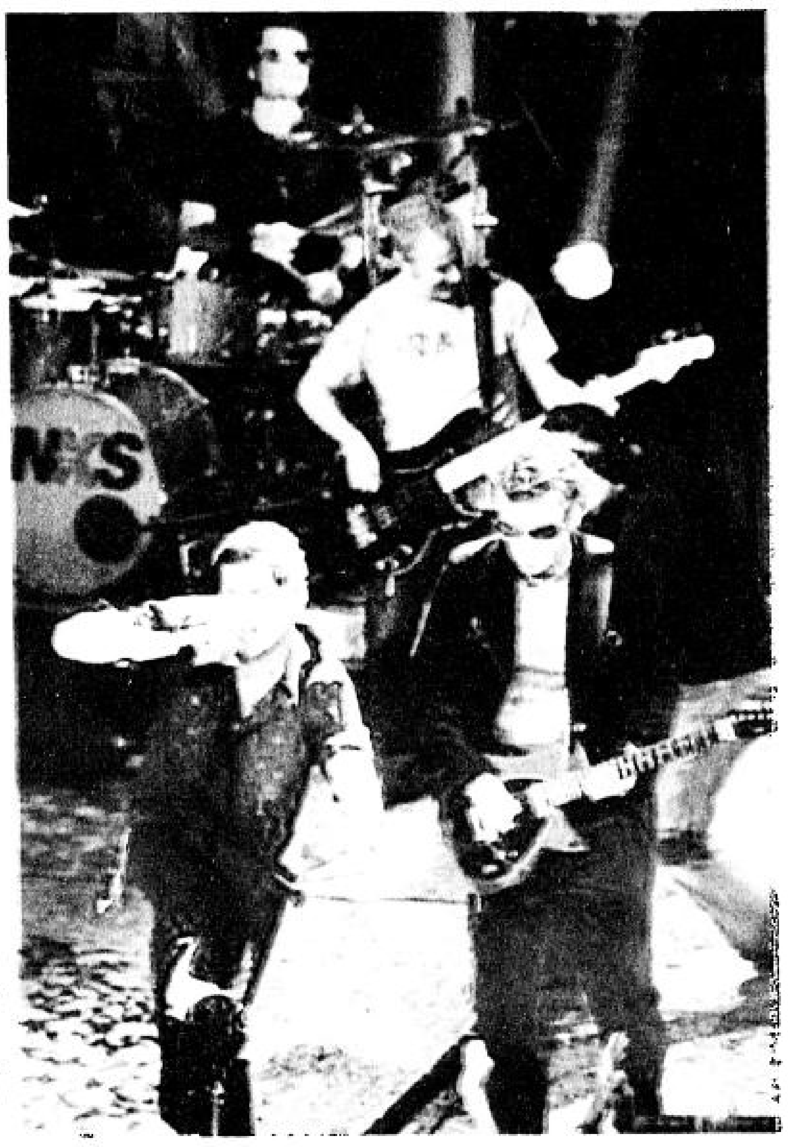
MiG was well-loved by the studio audience. He also had special folks cheering him from the sidelines. He disclosed, "My cousins are here from New York. My wife flew in from London. She was here during the show but she went out to lunch with my Tito Ramon, Tito Ching and other relatives who are here in LA for the finals."

What are his plans now? "I plan to eat," he declared with a laugh. "I'm starving!"

He added, "I plan on staying in LA for a couple of weeks and see what happens. And then there is a life for me in London—going back to recording and all that. I'm also looking forward to being with my wife again."

And what about the Honda Civic given to each of the final three contenders? "I have to fit it in my suitcase," he joked. "I have to bring it to London!"

ONE last dangle for Marty, "The Mad Conductor, right." Below, **INXS** and the new front man, **J.D. Fortune.**



Too much TV linked to obesity

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TELEVISION IS GETTING A BAD rap from viewers these days for coming up with irresponsible and exploitative programs. To balance the video picture, however, some shows do a good, responsible job of entertaining us, and teaching us a thing or two for good measure.

For instance, the "Today" show on the Etc. channel recently came up with a timely warning from researchers that the United States was facing an obesity surge "of epidemic proportions." More instructively, the main nemesis in this national "fat attack" was television.

It was revealed that 17 percent of American youths watched television at least six hours a day! To make things worse, as their eyes were glued to the screen, they were also wolfing down junk food, putting on pounds as though there were no tomorrow.

How much of this applies to the Philippine situation? Take a look at your own kids' relationship with the TV set, and decide for yourself. If you feel that they are indeed watching too much TV, and are too fat for their own good, these tips from obesity researchers could help:

Eating junk food has become so associated with televiewing, that watching TV has subliminally become a cue for many inveterate viewers to eat! In fact, some families have adjusted their mealtimes so they can watch their favorite programs while eating.

The experts who guested on the "Today" show urged viewers to stop doing this. Their first rule: Don't associate TV with eating! Also, stop using TV as an electronic babysitter. And reduce the time your kids watch television.

Likewise, they encouraged parents to switch off the TV set and take their kids on outings, or join them in physical activities. They insisted on this because they saw that the weight that children put on while being sedentary and watching TV was leading to more illnesses, some of which could plague them for the rest of their lives. The time to break the vicious cycle is now!

'The Beach Boys Live in Manila'

IT'S a tribute to the Beach Boys' staying power that the '60s group continues to perform all over the world. On Oct. 7, the Beach Boys will entertain local fans at the Araneta Coliseum in a concert entitled "The Beach Boys Live in Manila."

With Beach Boys founding member and lead vocalist **Mike Love** at the helm, the five-man group will perform the group's classic songs, most of them written by Love himself—"Surfin'," "Fun, Fun," "I Get Around," "California Girls," "Good Vibrations," "Kokomo," etc.

The other band members are veteran **Bruce Johnston, Mike Kowalski, Randell Kirsh, Chris Farmer, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowsill** and **Scott Totten.** Call 532-8883 or 911-5555.

On Cartoon Network

PREMIERING on Oct. 3, M-W-F at 10 a.m., is the new series, "Gordon, the Garden Gnome." Gordon loves plants, animals and all things environmental. A good thing, too, because they need constant care, attention and affection.

Gordon can count on his companions to help him.—Well, not most of them, anyway—because if resident slugs Lez and Daz have their way, there'd be nothing left in the garden to take care of.

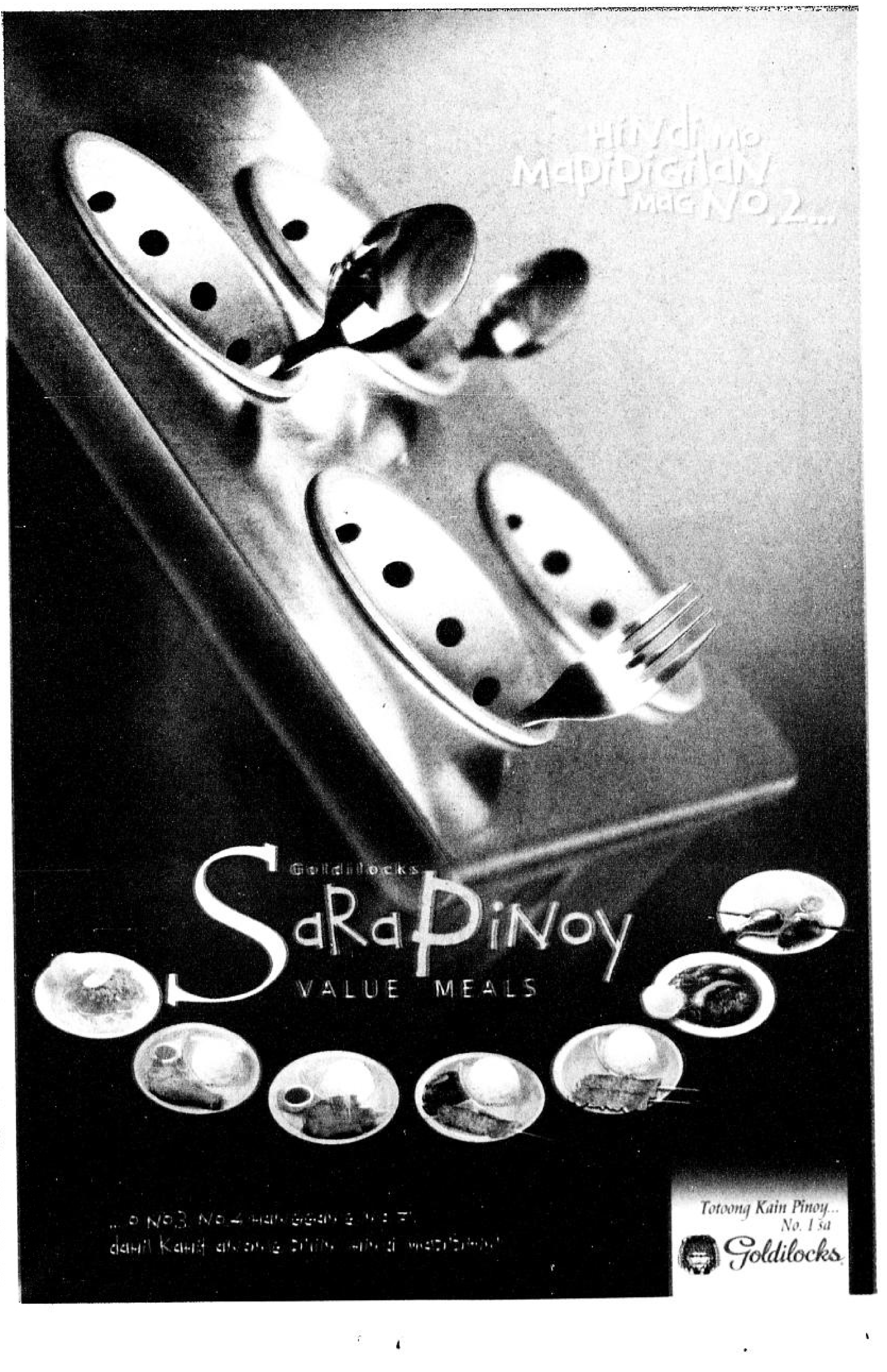
'Vietnam Rose'

ABS-CBN's newest telenovela "Vietnam Rose," started telecasting last Monday. The story's protagonist is Yue, a Vietnamese girl whose life undergoes devastating changes during the Vietnam War. Finding herself in the Philippines, Yue is adopted by a Filipino family and tries to rebuild her life.

But, can she ever escape the past? Yue has transformed herself into Karina (**Maricel Soriano**), a successful businesswoman married to an equally powerful man (**John Estrada**). But Karina feels unfulfilled—until she gets a vision of her dying mother in Vietnam.

She goes to Vietnam and finds her mother—but she also meets her half-sister, Tin (**Angelica Panganiban**), a streetsmart young woman who resents her for breaking their mother's heart.

"Vietnam Rose" is directed by **Joel Lamangan,** and also stars **Jay Manalo, Assunta de Rossi, Gina Alajar, Ricky Davao** and **Lollie Mara.**



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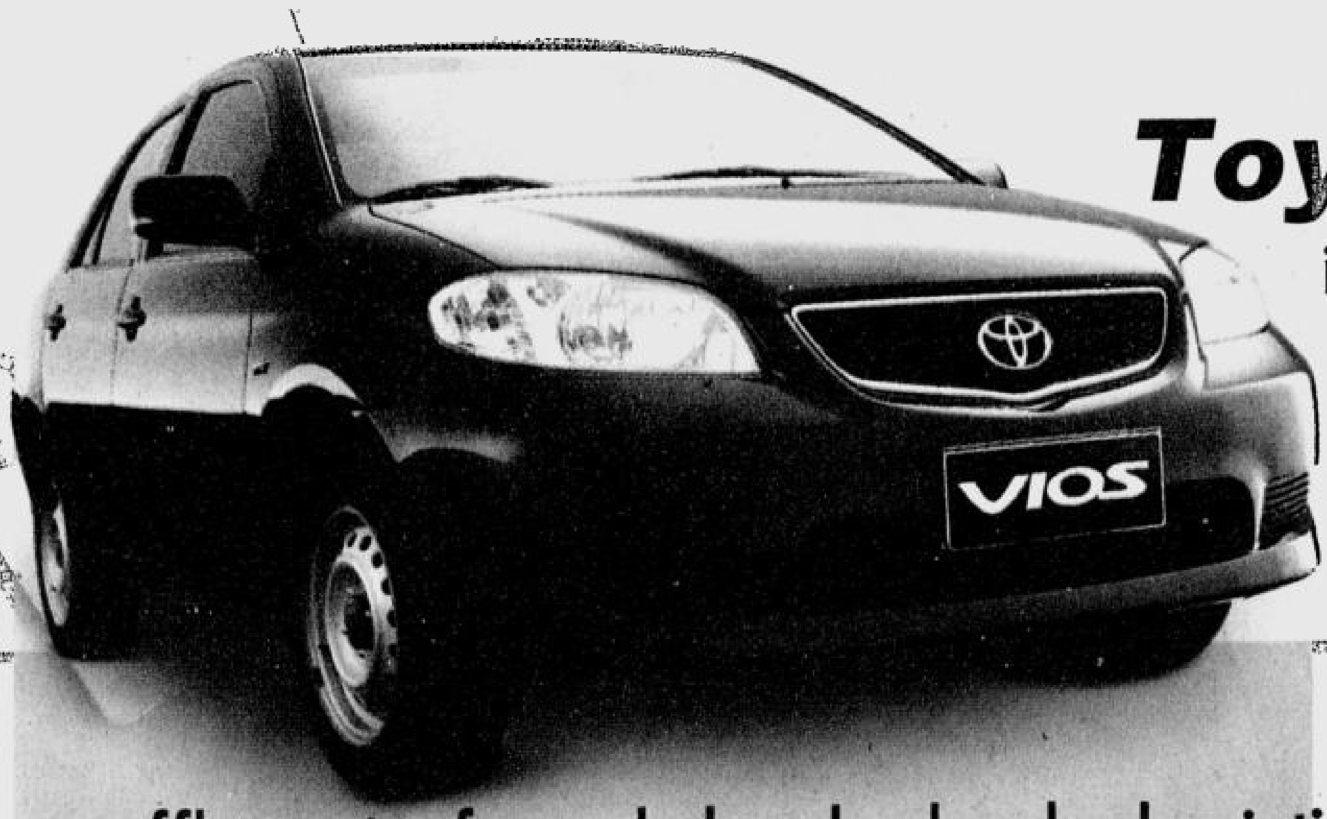

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Karaoke	KARAOKE ON to 2910	Once Weekly	10 entries	KARAOKE OFF to 2910	P25.00
Soul Food	SOUL to 2910	Daily	10 upon activation	SOUL OFF to 2910	P2.00
Pogi Points/Diskarte Tips	POGI to 2910	Daily	10 upon activation	POGI OFF to 2910	P2.00
Style Tips	CHIC to 2910	Daily	10 upon activation	CHIC OFF to 2910	P2.00
Pinoy Slang Dictionary	PINOY to 2910	Daily	10 upon activation	PINOY OFF to 2910	P2.00
Misquotes of Common English lines	MISQ to 2910	Daily	10 upon activation	MISQ OFF to 2910	P2.00

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FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

ORIX
ORIX Auto Leasing Philippines Corporation
Please see Page B2-4 to B2-8

BSP raises key policy rates by 25 bps

As pressures on inflation continue to build up

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD YESTERDAY RAISED BY 25 BASIS points the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' key overnight rates, to tame rising inflation driven by high oil prices.

This was the second time this year that the BSP's key policy rates were raised.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Nestor Espenilla announced that the key overnight borrowing rate was increased to 7.25 percent from 7 percent, while the overnight lending rate was raised to 9.5 percent from 9.25 percent.

Banks' interest rates on commercial loans and time deposit yields are also expected to rise as a result of the central bank's move.

The market had been expecting the tightening in view of the continued rise in global oil prices, the pressure on the local currency and the 25-basis point increase in the US Federal Reserve's rate to 3.75 percent on Tuesday.

"Given that the projected risks from cost-side pressures have intensified in recent weeks, the Monetary Board believes that it is important for the BSP to undertake monetary action now to protect its inflation targets and avoid the need for drastic tightening measures later," Espenilla said.

The Monetary Board recognized that supply-side inflation pressures could further build up due to the continued rise in crude oil prices, Espenilla said.

Inflation rose 7.2 percent year-on-year in August after 7.1 percent in July as oil prices continued to increase.

The August figure was higher than the BSP forecast of 6.6-7.1 percent. For the first eight months of the year, inflation averaged 8.1 percent, well above the full-year target of 5.0-6.0 percent.

The board also considered that the recent growth in money supply might not necessarily be channeled to consumption and investment spending, given that growth in bank lending remained moderate and that total demand was slowing down.

"The MB also noted that the trend of rising foreign interest rates due to monetary tightening by other central banks could lead to further declines in interest rate differentials," Espenilla said.

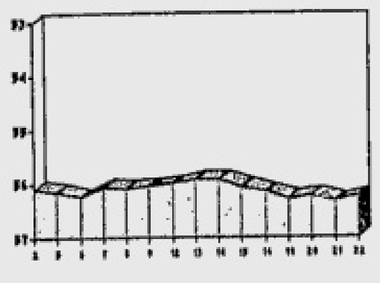
The BSP was concerned that the narrowing interest rate differential, in turn, may encourage investors to dump their pesos in favor of dollar-denominated assets.

"Combined with excess liquidity in the financial system, a shift towards dollar assets could lead to volatility in the peso-dollar exchange rate which, in turn, could raise inflation and inflation expectations," he said.

BSP/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 56.245 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 22, 2005

¥ 111.13 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 22, 2005

GOLD: $473.50-474.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 22, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Stocks up 0.31%

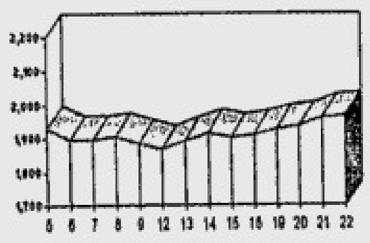
SHARE PRICES yesterday closed 0.31 percent higher, extending gains for a fifth day and bringing the main index to its highest level in over a month, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 6.12 points to 1,965.27.

STOCKS/ B5

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SEPTEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B5)

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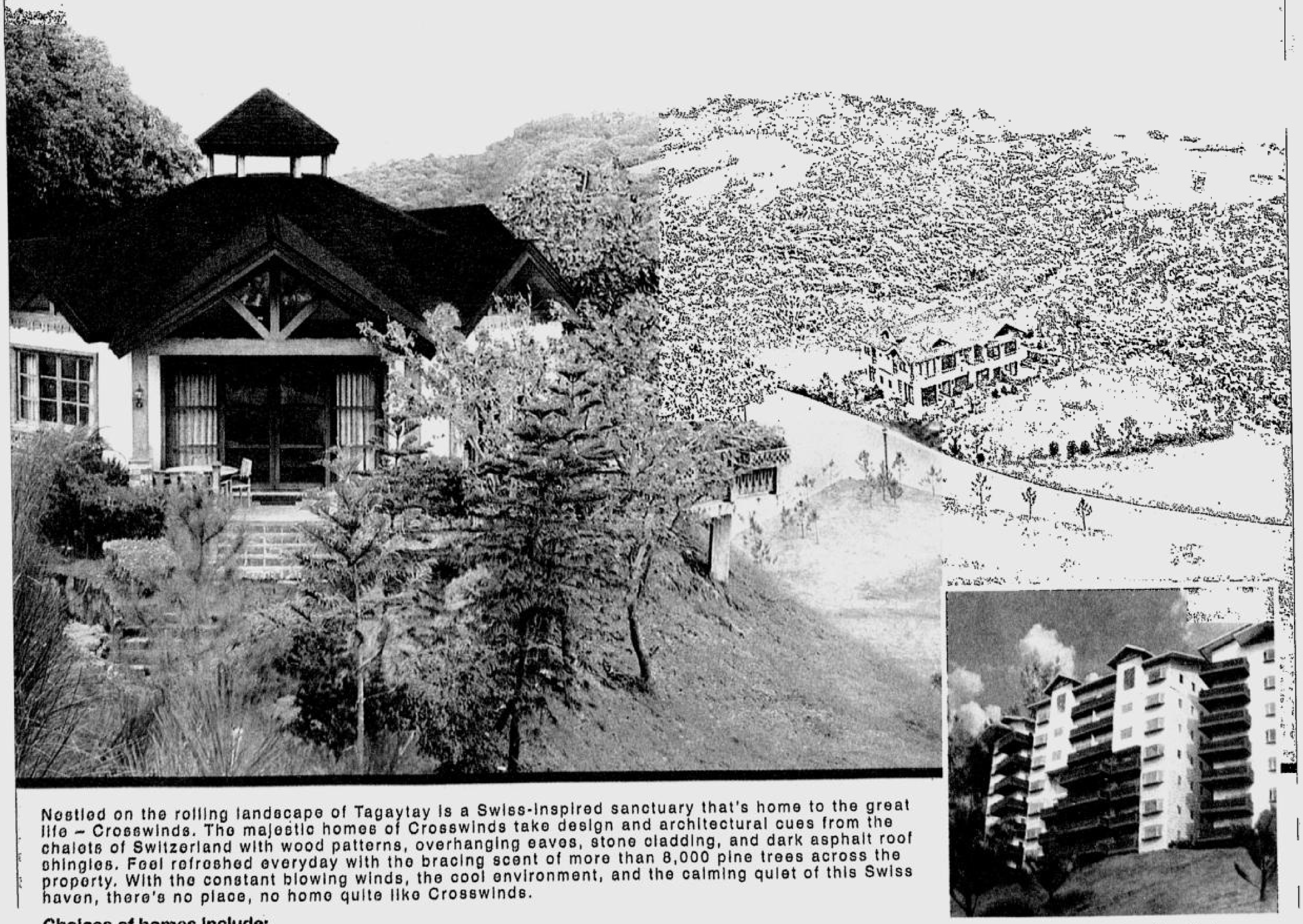
Nestled In Scenic Tagaytay:
A Swiss Sanctuary



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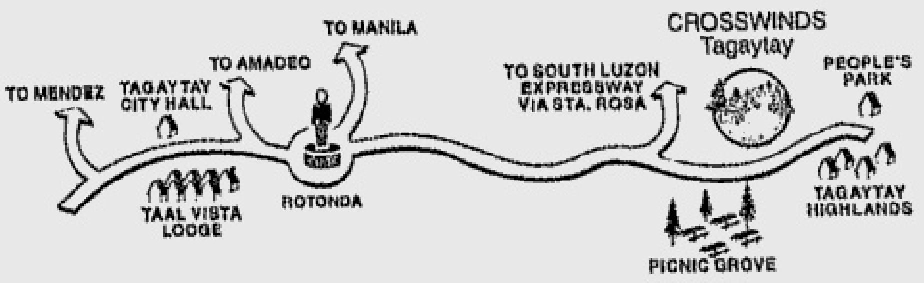

PNB Japan branch under fire

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Bank's offshore branch in Tokyo is under fire from Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA) over alleged mishandling of foreign exchange and remittance transactions as well as the unauthorized sale of lottery tickets.

But PNB president Omar Mier yesterday said that the bank would do whatever was needed to comply with the Japanese regulators.

Japanese authorities have ordered the branch to submit an operations improvement plan by Oct. 21.

The FSA found out that PNB, without permission from the Japanese government, had set up service counters at travel agencies frequented by Filipinos to help them send money home and exchange currencies over the past year.

The bank was also suspected of involvement in unauthorized businesses at churches and retail stores in Japan. This included the sale of Philippines lottery tickets at its Tokyo branch and Nagoya satellite office.

The sale of lottery tickets is illegal in Asia's largest economy.

"What is positive is that no sanction has been imposed on us," Mier said, noting he was confident that the bank would continue with business as usual.

"Definitely, we will keep our branch in Japan because we'd like to service the requirements of the Filipino community there," Mier added.

The bank president said PNB was awaiting an English translation of the FSA order so that the bank could immediately address the Japanese regulator's concerns.

FSA, which earlier this year shut down the private banking operations of Citibank NA in Japan over certain violations, has banned PNB from opening more local branches in the country until it deems that the problem has been properly addressed.

The regulator also required PNB to submit a progress report once every three months.

Japanese regulators have ordered the local bank to address what the FSA suspects may be crime-linked activities such as withdrawals and remittance of large amounts of money by some individual customers.

The FSA is concerned that while PNB's bank managers have been aware of such transactions and have even informed the FSA about the matter themselves, they have let those customers continue the operations without proper control and identification.

PNB is controlled by tobacco and beer magnate Lucio Tan.

Ayala Corp. trims '05 net debt to $551M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA CORP., THE COUNTRY'S LONGEST operating conglomerate, has trimmed its net debt by $90 million this year to $551 million.

Ayala treasurer Ramon Opulencia said that the bulk of Ayala's debts—worth roughly $300 million—would fall due in 2008.

Ayala has secured a total of P7.2 billion in loans this year to prepay some of its debts.

Recently, it signed a P4.2-billion loan agreement with BDO Capital Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., Insular Investment and Trust Corp. and China Banking Corp.

The loan will be used to prepay the company's dollar-denominated debts due in 2006, consistent with its debt refinancing program.

Ayala has $89 million in debts maturing this year and $112 million due in 2006.

Renato Marzan, managing director at Ayala, said the new loan would mature in seven years and will have a fixed interest rate of 10.375 percent a year. Ayala will have the option to redeem or buy back the loan beginning on the fourth year after its issue.

Ayala has roughly $200 million to address its maturing loans up to next year.

Ayala thought of tapping the debt market to improve its risk profile.

Atlas copper subsidiary up for listing

By Christine A. Gaylican

ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING and Development Corp. is bent on rebuilding the Toledo copper mines and develop its other copper assets through its new subsidiary Carmen Copper Corp.

Atlas is also planning to have its subsidiary listed on the local and international markets early next year.

Carmen Copper has laid the groundwork for the rehabilitation of the Toledo copper mines in Cebu. The effort requires $150 million in investments, according to Martin C. Buckingham, executive vice president and chief finance officer of Atlas Consolidated.

"We have to postpone the listing until next year because of the very tight schedule come Christmas," said Buckingham in a press briefing. "There would be a two-week holiday that may not bode well for our IPO (initial public offering)."

The Atlas official said that the funds to be raised from the IPO would finance the re-opening of the Toledo mines, closed since 1994.

Atlas' copper project in Cebu was started in 1955. It covered around 5,000 hectares. The project, however, was stopped in 1994 after copper prices in the world market dropped.

The project was once the biggest copper mine in Asia. Majority control of the project was recently acquired by Alakor Corp.

Atlas, the former owner, unloaded its outstanding debt through a debt-for-equity swap with Alakor and Minoro Mining and Exploration Corp.

Incentives await book firms that go public

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Book Development Board yesterday announced that it was offering a package of additional incentives for publishers that would list in the Philippine Stock Exchange in an effort to promote competitiveness in the local book industry.

NBDB Chair Dennis T. Gonzalez said publishers could strengthen their businesses if they could tap much-needed capital through the equities market.

Created in 1998 under the Book Publishing Industry Development Act, the NBDB aims to enhance the competitiveness of the industry, expand the domestic and international markets for local books and turn the country into a publishing hub of Asia.

Gonzalez said the NBDB perks included free three-year registration with the agency; 25-percent discount in the availment of NBDB textbook review service for three years; priority in NBDB-sponsored seminars, trainings and projects; and free advertising space on the NBDB website, as well as its quarterly publication "Bookwatch" for three years.

"Even small and medium enterprises with a minimum capital of P20 million are now encouraged to enlist in the PSE, which offers an opportunity to facilitate capital infusion and business growth," he added.

Gonzalez and other NBDB officials have said there was a wide range of incentives for local book publishers.

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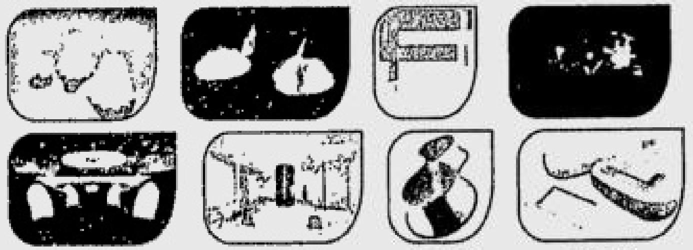

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ASIAN HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

NOTICE TO ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

Please be advised that the annual meeting of the stockholders of ASIAN HOSPITAL, INC. (the "Corporation") will be held on October 20, 2005, Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. at the Multi-Purpose Hall, 4th Floor, Asian Hospital and Medical Center, 2205 Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, with the following agenda:

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Certification of Notice and Quorum
III. Chairman's Message to the Stockholders
IV. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on October 8, 2004
V. Presentation of the Report of the President and Chief Executive Officer
VI. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements of the Corporation for the Year Ended 2004
VII. Ratification of Corporate Acts of the Board of Directors since September 15, 2004
VIII. Approval of the Amendment of Article III (on Independent Directors) and Article V (on the Executive Committee) of the Amended By-Laws of the Corporation
IX. Election of Directors for 2005 to 2006
X. Appointment of Actions on Fractional Shares
XI. Appointment of External Auditors
XII. Adjournment

Stockholders who may not be able to attend the aforesaid meeting in person but wish to participate through a proxy may send a Proxy instrument to the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. of October 14, 2005, at the following address:

CARLOS ROBERTO Z. LOPEZ
ASIAN HOSPITAL, INC.
c/o 7th Floor, SSHG Law Center
105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CORPORATION IS NOT SOLICITING PROXIES.

With respect to the election of directors (item VII of the Agenda), stockholders who wish to nominate candidates for directors, including independent directors, must submit their nominations to the Nomination Committee at the following address not later than 5:00 p.m. of September 27, 2005:

THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ASIAN HOSPITAL, INC.
4TH Floor, Asian Hospital and Medical Center
2205 Civic Drive, Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntilupa City
Fax No. 876-57-10

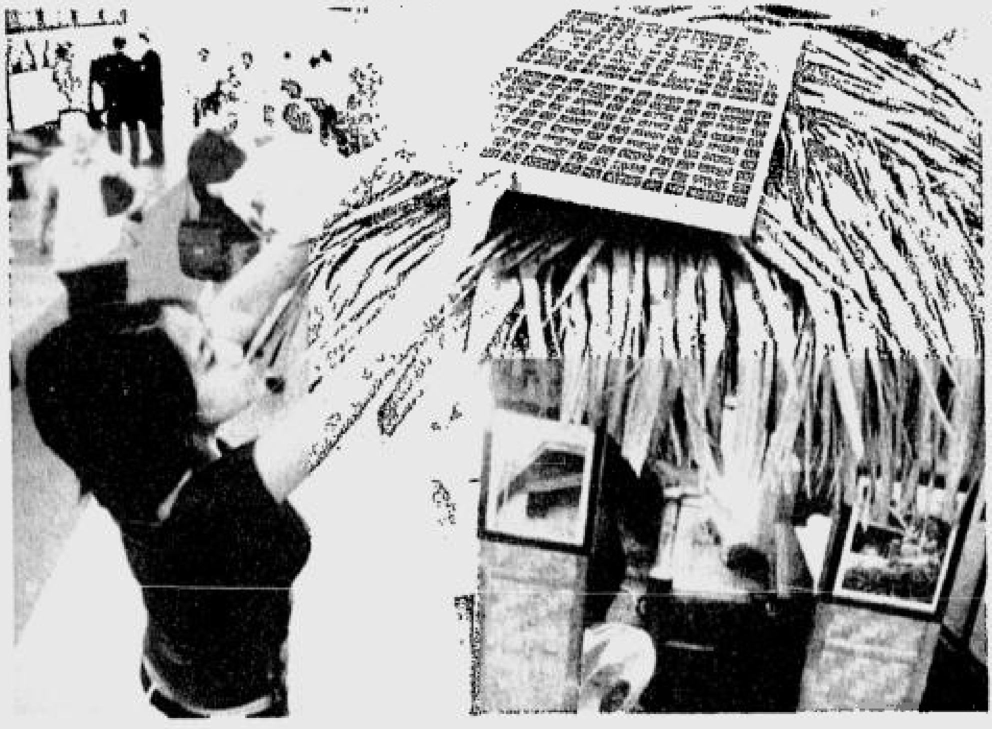
All nominations should include (i) the signature of the nominating stockholder, (ii) acceptance and conformity by the nominee, (iii) and curriculum vitae of the nominee, (iv) a statement that the nominee has all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications as set forth in the Corporation's Manual on Corporate Governance, Section 38 of the Securities Regulation Code ("SRC"), SRC Rule 38, SEC Memorandum Circular No. 02-02 dated April 5, 2002 and SEC Memorandum Circular 16-02 dated November 28, 2002, (v) information on the relationship of the nominee to the stockholder submitting the nomination, and (vi) all relevant information about the nominee's qualifications.

September 21, 2005.

(Sgd.) **CARLOS ROBERT Z. LOPEZ**
Corporate Secretary

(Sgd.) **JOAN ADACI-CATTILING**
Assistant Corporate Secretary

(PDI- September 23, 2005)



THROUGH THE ROOF
An exhibitor puts up a solar panel atop a replica of a native hut during an energy expo event in Manila. The country is seeking ways to lessen its dependence on imported oil, whose prices in the world market are now shooting through the roof. AFP

PSE urged to defer accounting proviso for pre-need firms

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPINE FEDERATION OF PRE-NEED Plan Companies Inc. has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to defer the implementation of international accounting standards on the pre-need industry starting this year, saying it will likely bloat their costs and paper deficits.

In a letter to the SEC last month, the federation said it would like to adopt insurance accounting for the industry which allows pre-need firms to book income from collections of policy payments from plan holders.

Under the International Accounting Standards 39 rules—a set of standards to be implemented for all firms next year—collections are booked as expenses.

"Pre-need firms are wary of IAS 39 because under this standard, they have to restate their accounting in the books," SEC general accountant Roberto Manabat told the INQUIRER in an interview. "They have to undo what they have done.They will have to go back as far as 15 to 20 years to undo it.It is not that simple. I understand the situation of the industry requesting them to be given more time."

"We have talked to independent third parties, namely SGV & Co. as well as the Insurance Commission, to help us comply with the requirements of insurance accounting," the federation said in its letter. "Unfortunately, we have not received any firm reply from them on whether we could adopt the said accounting for the industry. In view of the foregoing, we are requesting for the deferment of IAS for this year."

The federation—which is composed of more than 30 pre-need firms—has taken a different stand from College Assurance Plan Philippines, Inc. (CAP) which has been the most vocal in adopting IAS 39 as an alternative to the Pre-Need Uniform Chart of Accounts (PNUCA) adopted in 2002 as a standard for accounting and reporting of finances and liabilities for pre-need companies.

CAP said that with the PNUCA in place, pre-need educational and pension plans are no longer treated as investment contracts but as insurance contracts, subject to the actuarial reserve liability (ARL) scheme.

The ARL requires pre-need firms to have updated reserves to match future liabilities for all existing and lapsed plans.

CAP argued that plans do not mature simultaneously in the immediate future.

In its petition for rehabilitation filed with the Makati Regional Trial Court, CAP claimed that after operating its business for the past two decades, the industry found itself in a bind after the SEC suddenly changed its regulatory guidelines governing pre-need companies. This was aggravated by a regime of uncontrolled tuition fee increases brought about by government deregulation in the early 1990s.

CAP argued that the tighter accounting policies "came about after serious and manifest attempts" failed to place the pre-need industry under the jurisdiction of the Insurance Commission through legislation.

Worse, CAP's dealer's license and permit to sell were suspended last year due to what it claimed was a "theoretical" trust fund deficiency due to the application of the PNUCA.

"It is the insurance companies that largely benefited from the strict impositions of the SEC on pre-need companies like CAP," the company said in its court filing. "Why would a genuine Filipino invention like educational pre-need be allowed to suffer or be extinguished when it has helped fulfill thousands of parents' dreams to send their children to college?"

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Managed Fund - Peso	1.37074	1.36295
Growth Fund - Peso	1.01830	1.00206
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.1429	1.1429

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

INSULAR LIFE UNIT PRICES (in Php)

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	September 19,2005	September 12,2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.051036	1.048851
Balanced Fund	1.036053	1.021272
Equity Fund	1.001830	0.957605

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
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"...Kanan lang makalampas ng sari-sari store...

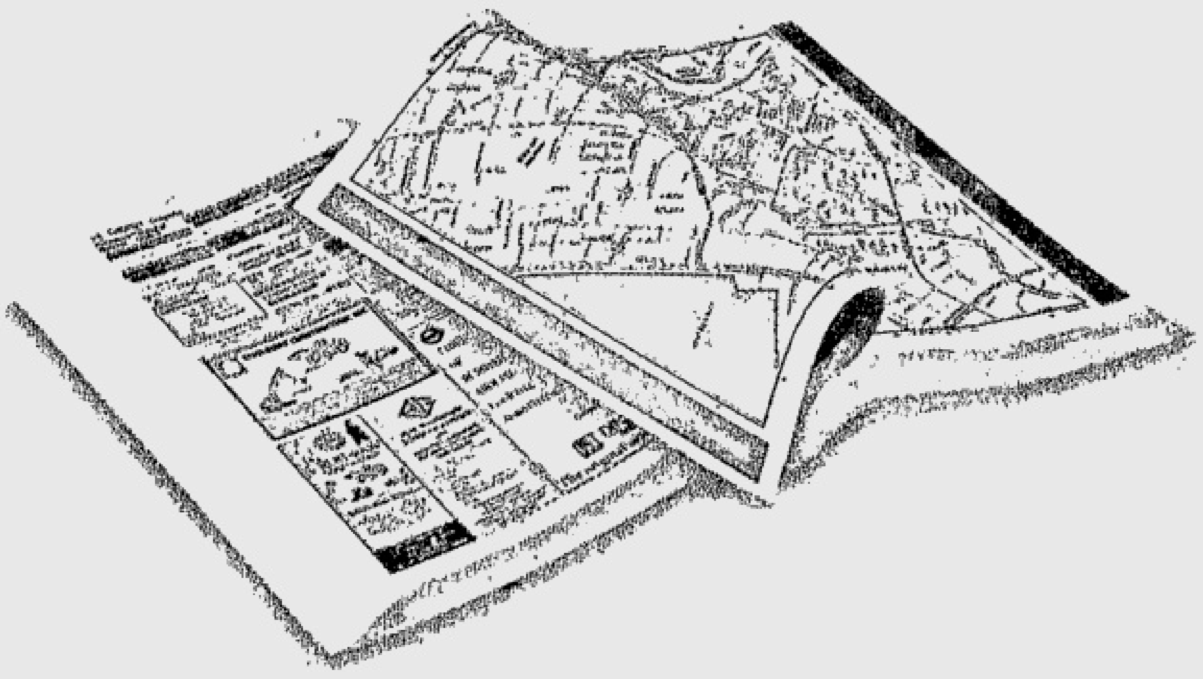
...tapos kaliwa pagkatapos ng DALAWANG YOSI...

...en den diretso lang, den lep...LEP ha, KALIWA!
...sa may nakaupong aso...

...at pag nakita mo yung videokehan ni Aling Letty...

...wait lang ha...

...hindi pa doon..."


Or you can just check out the Grid Maps in the new DPC Yellow Pages.

It's an easy-to-use, accurate and clear guide to the metro. Use the DPC Grid Maps in the 2005-2006 PLDT Metro Manila Telephone Directories and find the easiest way to get to where you're going!

Now it comes with a Food-to-Go/Dine-in section, Zip Codes, Tax Calendars, Philippine Facts and Figures, Conversion and Measurement Tables, Road and Traffic Signs, World in Focus, First Aid tips and how to get an NSO Certificate and NBI Clearance. So you get more than just business names, their telephone numbers and addresses. It's more than Yellow, more than just Pages, making your telephone directory more useful everyday.

Get your 2005-2006 PLDT Metro Manila Telephone Directories from any of these PLDT offices:
Balara • Diliman • DPC Place • Escolta • España-Rotonda • Fairview • Gamel • Isetann, Recto
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8
9
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ABC
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Young marketing professionals, now is your chance to sell your achievements in Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.'s 1st Young Market Masters Awards (1st YMMA). The 1st YMMA seeks to recognize and honor young achievers who excel in marketing and entrepreneurship and to inspire a new generation of innovative marketing professionals.

The 1st YMMA is open to any Filipino citizen, 35 years and younger (by the end of the year of nomination) with at least 2 full years of service with his or her company at the time of nomination.

Two categories are open for nomination. The Marketing Category is open to young achievers who may be called marketing manager, brand manager, trade marketing manager, account manager and the like.

The Entrepreneur Category seeks to honor the owner or part-owner of an enterprise who are the main catalyst of the business.

Early submission of entries shall be on Oct. 28, 2005. Absolute deadline is on Nov. 25, 2005. For complete mechanics, reach us through our contact details below.

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Icebergs, Styro boxes and WTO

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

IMAGINE YOURSELF NAVIGATING A SHIP at sea. From a distance, you see the tip of an iceberg. Not far away is a giant styrofoam box that has double the height of the iceberg tip.

Not realizing the nature of the two objects, you try to avoid the box rather than the iceberg. If you do this and hit the iceberg, you encounter total disaster. If you knew that the styrofoam box had nothing under it, while the iceberg tip had a large dangerous base supporting it, you would have behaved very differently.

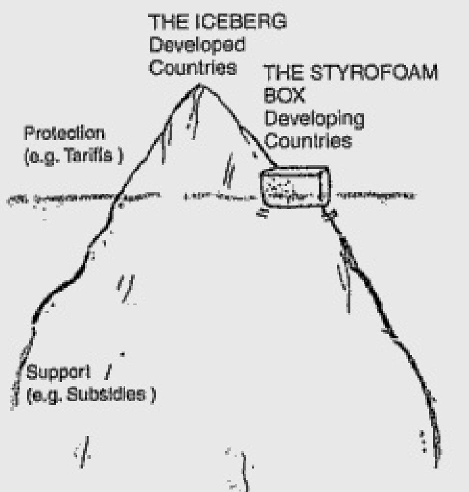
This is the image our Philippine trade negotiators should carry with them as they go to the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting in Hong Kong this December. If they do not recognize the icebergs for what they are, they will plunge our country into disaster, with a further loss of jobs and increased poverty.

Background

Thanks to Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Domingo Panganiban who sponsored the "WTO Seminar on Agriculture and Related Matters" last Sept. 20-22, an emerging consensus was achieved by agricultural stakeholders, such as Alyansa Agrikultura leaders and DA officials from the different regions.

An insightful presentation was made by Jerome Bunyi of the DA's WTO desk. He showed the analogy that DA Undersecretary Segfredo Serrano has been expounding on regarding the total picture of assistance countries give their agricultural sectors. This is shown below:

TOTAL ASSISTANCE



At the WTO, developed countries argue for a level playing field. They point to the much higher tariffs of developing countries and pressure them to decrease their tariffs.

The principle of leveling the playing field is correct. But the playing field is not just tariffs, but the entire summation of assistance a country's government gives its farmers. This is both protection (e.g. tariffs) and support (e.g. subsidies). As we decrease our agricultural tariffs towards the lower levels of the developed countries, the huge subsidies of the developed countries have not been decreased by a similar degree. Taking the holistic view, we should therefore not be forced to decrease our tariffs unless the level of total assistance (that is, both protection in tariffs and support in subsidies) will also be leveled. We should reduce our tariffs only if we want to, and not be forced by WTO.

Facts and Figures

In an earlier meeting with farmer leaders of Pakisama led by Vicente Fabe, Risa Bernabe of the Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI) showed the research done by Raul Montemayor of the Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives. In the July 2004 WTO meeting in Geneva, some heralded the news that the developed countries had slashed their maximum allowed subsidies by 20 percent.

Again, this is not the complete picture. Unfortunately, the new maximum levels still exceed the actual subsidies given in 2000.

The new allowed subsidy level for the US is $38.1 billion, higher than their actual 2000 level of $24.8 billion. The same is true for the European Union ($91.1 billion versus $73.2 billion) and Japan ($36.7 billion versus $6.8 billion).

Compare these huge subsidy levels to that of the Philippines. In 2000, our actual subsidy level was only $300 million. Sadly, it been decreasing since then. In his Sept. 19 INQUIRER column, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito stated that for 2005, the DA's share of the national budget decreased from 3.6 percent to 3.28 percent. When this was cited during the workshop, the participants unanimously agreed to express their opposition to such a decrease.

The Filipino farmers are suffering a double whammy. Above the water line, their tariffs are being increased. Below this line, their subsidies are being decreased.

Big Noise

We must support DA and Undersecretary Serrano in their efforts to change the devel-

ICEBERGS/ B6

PIAP, PPTF launch print exhibit today

The Philippine printing industry finds renewed strength and vigor with the hosting of Print Philippines '05, the first-ever all-printing trade show that opens today at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC).

The trade show opens at 10 A.M., with Senator Richard Gordon as special guest and keynote speaker. As chairman of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Sen. Gordon had proposed the creation of a "Book City" within the industrial complex and turns it into an economic zone especially dedicated to the "development, publishing, printing and sale of books and other publishing materials."

Two recognized pillars of the printing industry have joined hands to ensure the success of Print Philippines '05, a three-day printing exhibition that showcases the latest, cutting-edge technologies to ensure faster turnaround, better quality, inexpensive printing techniques.

The Printing Industries Association of the Philippine (PIAP) and Philippine Printing Technology Foundation (PPTF) are leaving no stones unturned in their efforts to improve local printers' competitive edge in the global market. The theme of the trade show "Projecting Better Images in the Global Market" underscores the two associations' commitment to rebound from years of lethargic performance mainly caused by the industry's substandard printing equipment and techniques.

"Printing is a highly technology-driven industry," said George A. Lora, PPTF president. "I personally know a number of local printing companies that have closed shop for their failure to meet their customers demand for speed, quality, lower costs which can no longer be met by outdated printing equipment and technologies."

Lawyer Tony Sibal, CEO of Central Book Store and president of PIAP, said Print Philippines '05 allows local printers to take a peep at the various technologies now available in the market. "Visiting the show. is an inexpensive way of looking at these equipment and systems, and finding out which of them would be most useful to a given situation."

A number of local printers have joined printing trade delegations in recent years to observe new trends and developments in the printing industry. Last year, over 100 Filipino printers joined the delegation to Drupa in Germany to witness the world's largest printing exhibition and convention. Last September 8, another 60 local printers flew to Chicago in the United States to participate in another prestigious printing trade show.

"Our local printers realize that they could not be globally competitive if they do not expand their knowledge in printing and invest in new equipment and processes," said printing spokesman Romy de la Cruz. "Print Philippines '05 is our modest way of helping our local printers source for new equipment and technology without the extra cost of going abroad."

The exhibitors represent printing machine distributors, service bureaus, quick printing companies, printing parts suppliers, paper dealers, duplicators, large format printers, proofing machine distributors, small offset distributors, software management specialists, label printers, color management software, print rollers, inks, paper dealers, vacuum pumps, computer-to-film pre-press system, plate processors, film processors, large format printers, binding supplies, and other printing related activities.

THE POWER OF CONVERGENCE

PRINT '05 PHILIPPINES

A TOTAL PRINTING & GRAPHICS SHOW

Philippine Trade Training Center ❋ Roxas Boulevard

September 23-25, 2005

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Message

My esteemed greetings to the officers and members of the Printing Industries Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PIAP) and Philippine Printing Technical Foundation, Inc. (PPTF) on your printing and graphic show dubbed as *"Print Philippines '05"*.

The printing industry plays a significant role in achieving peace, unity and understanding among our people.

Your theme, *"Projecting Better Images in the Global Market,"*, tries to establish an excellent and competitive Philippines in the global market. Your associations contribute to the enhancement of the printing industry, and for this I laud your individual and collective efforts.

I enjoin you to continue the course you have taken. I expect this occasion to open new horizons that will make our country globally competitive in printing and in other fields.

Mabuhay ang PIAP at PPTF! Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Message

I welcome the distinguished guests and participants to the *Print Philippines '05* to be held on September 23 - 25, 2005

I also extend my sincere appreciation to the Printing Industries Association of the Philippines, Inc. and the Philippine Printing Technical Foundation, Inc. for this very significant trade event, which is expected to showcase the latest state-of-the-art printing and graphics equipment and other products from around the world.

The theme *"Projecting Better Images in the Global Market"* is indeed timely and appropriate in this era of highly competitive global economy. The local industries need the infusion of cutting edge technology and resources into their ventures in order to survive the onslaught of giant multinational competitors. This three-day trade presentation will certainly provide new approaches and implements to the local entrepreneurs in realizing their vision of attaining sustainable competitive advantage in their respective field of endeavor.

I therefore exhort the organizers to persevere in this worthwhile undertaking as a social commitment in fostering entrepreneurial spirit amongst our countrymen, which provide much needed impetus in our quest for enduring national progress.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

NOLI "KABAYAN" L. DE CASTRO

MESSAGE OF "PRINT PHILIPPINES '05"
GUEST OF HONOR AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Hon. Richard Gordon
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

Warmest greetings to the members of the Printing Industries Association of the Philippines, Inc. and the Philippine Printing Technical Foundation, Inc.

I would like to congratulate you for your organizations' latest milestone "Print Philippines 2005" printing and graphic arts show. I commend you for your continuous efforts to enhance the country's printing industry. I am glad to see two influential organizations joining hands to create a one-of-a-kind presentation that will surely put the printing industry in the limelight. Your creative and aggressive innovation signals a promising future for the Philippine printing industry. I have always believed in the potentials of the country's printing and publishing industries. Back when I was still Chairman of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, I had already proposed the creation of a "Book City" in the country which aims to allocate a tract of land and turn it into an economic zone specially dedicated to the development, publishing, printing and sale of books and other publishing materials. Your organizations' efforts to put up this printing show speak loudly of your willingness and readiness to take on challenges for the printing industry. Furthermore, it will attract local and foreign businessmen to come and invest in the country. This will equate to more job opportunities for Filipinos and will bolster the government's efforts to empower and uplift the lives of each of us.

I strongly believe that our country is destined for greatness and that Filipinos can reach undreamed of heights. It is my sincere hope that we can work together as partners to make this vision a reality. So all together, let us work for the realization of every Filipino's dream of a new Philippines a Bagumbayan.

Mabuhay!

RICHARD J. GORDON

PROGRAMME

9:15-9:45	Arrival of Guests
9:45-10:00	National Anthem Invocation
10:00-10:30	Welcome Remarks Atty. JOSE AGATON R. SIBAL *President* *Printing Industries Association of the Philippines (PIAP)* *Chairman, Executive Committee* Mr. GEORGE A. LORA *President* *Philippine Printing Technical Foundation (PPTF)* *Co-Chairman, Executive Committee*
10:30-10:35	Introduction of Guest of Honor & Speaker
10:35-11:15	Keynote Address Hon. RICHARD GORDON *Senator, Republic of the Philippines*
11:15-11:30	Presentation of Plaque of Appreciation to Guest of Honor and Speaker
11:30-11:45	Ribbon-Cutting and Opening of *Print Philippines '05"*
11:45-12:30	Tour of Exhibition Hall

SEMINARS

DATE	TOPIC	SPONSOR	VENUE
Sept. 23, 2005			
1 - 4 p.m	Various Kinds of Printing Processes Soyalone and Ecopure Inki	CDI Sakata Inx CDI Sakata Inx.	Exhibit Hall Exhibit Hall
1:30 - 4 p.m.	Kodak Graphic Communication Seminar	Ideal Marketing	Room A & B
4 - 6 p.m	Emerging New Digital Printing Technologies	Secomp, Inc.	Exhibit Hall
Sept. 24, 2005			
9 a.m. - 12 nn	Basic Screen Printing Seminar	PPTF	Exhibit Hall
1 - 4 p.m.	Application of Imagesetting to the Printing Flow	PPTF	Exhibit Hall
4 - 6:30 p.m.	Computer to Plate (CtP) Technology	S. Eastern Phoenix	Room A
4 - 6 p.m.	Pre-press Right on Your Desktop	GAKKEN Phil.	Exhibit Hall

EXHIBITORS

ACW CompuADD
Altima Advertising – Infiniti Aslatype Incorporated
Big_Pix Graphic Systems
Bugiaw Electro-Carbon Factors
Central Print on Demand – Central Group of Companies
Chase Technologies Corporation
Citibind Corporation
Computer Graphics, Inc.
Converpack Technologies Corporation
Copylandia Office Systems Corporation
Empire Paper Traders
Epson Philippines Corporation
Fena Digital Imaging Corporation
Fujixerox Philippines, Inc.
Gakken (Philippines), Inc.
Globis, Inc.
Graphic Sales Center, Inc.
Grapteck, Incorporated
Hololek Enterprises
Ideal Marketing & Manufacturing Corporation
Infinite Labels Corporation
Intergrafica Print & Pack (Philippines), Inc.
Maschinen Druck, Inc.
Multi Ink General Merchandise
Multistiq, Incorporated
Norde International Distributors
Packware Phils., Inc
Pan Asia Paper Products Corporation
Perma Colour, Inc.
Philippine Vacuum Pumps and Printing Parts Trading Corp
Prestige Quality Paper
QualiPlus International Trading
Rockwell Machine Shop Co., Ltd.
SEcomp, Inc.
South Eastern Phoenix, Inc. (Spicers International Ltd.)
TGRAF - Team Graphics
TPT International, Inc.
U-BIX
Vaco Paper Corporation
VJ GraphicArts, Inc
Ynzal Marketing Corporation

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 22, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	31	31	31,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53.5	53	53.5	1,028,800
China Banking Corp.	590	600	590	600	2,910
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	470,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	49.5	50	133,900
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	213,100
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	62,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	15	15	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	9,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	2840	2840	2840	2840	340
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14.75	14	14.75	254,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.99	270,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	780	780	775	775	76,800
Ipeople Inc.	3	3.05	3	3	303,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	9,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	255,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1635	1640	1620	1630	162,170
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	6,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	14	13.75	14	3,700
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	21	21.5	779,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	13,674,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.3	3.15	3.25	2,989,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1	0.99	1	380,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9	9.1	9	9	1,143,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	292,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.52	660,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.85	3	2.85	3	153,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.5	3.45	3.5	70,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	36	35	36	933,400
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65.5	29,600
San Miguel Corp. B	94	94.5	93.5	93.5	127,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	210,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	12,000,000
Ayala Corp.	297.5	300	297.5	300	116,880
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	220,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.2	5	5.2	5,577,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10	10	10	10	8,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.024	10,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	1,791,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	6,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.71	450,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	60,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.6	9.5	9.6	38,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	8,193,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.22	0.23	680,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	40,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	5,070,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.45	3.2	3.45	6,094,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	1,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.6	1,703,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	43	43	41.5	42	438,300
Ionics Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	5,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	3.4	3.55	3.4	3.55	90,000
Medco Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	2,231,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	4,530,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	62,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	400,000
SM Investments Corp.	204	206	201	204	200,650
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	11,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	960,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION &TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	104,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.95	7,410,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	630,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14	15	14	14.75	643,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.1	7.9	8	9,329,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	16,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	110,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	9,950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	7,135,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,250,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	551,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	670,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.3	7.5	4,251,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	170,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.97	140,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	58,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	343,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.84	1.9	1.84	1.9	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	3,850,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	3,590,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	30,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	19,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	16,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.88	0.92	0.88	0.92	7,090,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	5,289,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	416,700
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	110,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	50,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,400,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	280,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.45	4.6	4.45	4.55	114,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	330,000

DISCLOSURES

FIL-ESTATE Corp. postponed the annual stockholders meeting, details will be announced later.

* * *

THE **BANK of the Philippine Islands** board of directors approved the appointments of Lilia Bautista to the board and Marilyn Oliva as compliance officer of BPI. The board also agreed to set a special stockholders' meeting to discuss the merger with Prudential Bank.

* * *

PRUDENTIAL Bank's board of directors agreed to hold a special stockholders' meeting to discuss the merger with BPI.

* * *

ROXAS Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov 23, 10 a.m., at Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Oct. 14 are entitled to vote.

Compiled by Chona Galang, PDI Research

BSP raises key policy . . .

From page B1

The BSP's overnight rates were last adjusted, also by 25 basis points, in April as a "preemptive move" against rising inflation.

But while the rates were kept steady since April, the BSP implemented a monetary tightening last July through a 2-percentage hike in the reserve requirement on banks. This was aimed at curbing excess financial liquidity which was exerting pressure on inflation and the foreign exchange rates.

CURRENCIES

September 22, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.818532	1.000000	56.2740
Japan	Yen	0.007357	0.008988	0.5058
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480887	1.809200	101.8109
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105455	0.128834	7.2500
Switzerland	Franc	0.644310	0.787154	44.2963
Canada	Dollar	0.700858	0.856238	48.1839
Singapore	Dollar	0.487454	0.595522	33.5124
Australia	Dollar	0.629882	0.769527	43.3044
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.171287	2.652661	149.2758
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218257	0.266645	15.0052
Brunei	Dollar	0.486006	0.593754	33.4129
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000080	0.000098	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.019964	0.024390	1.3725
UAE	Dirham	0.222881	0.272294	15.3231
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.221700	68.7499
Argentina	Peso	0.281041	0.343348	19.3216
Brazil	Real	0.358376	0.437828	24.6383
Denmark	Kroner	0.134052	0.163771	9.2160
India	Rupee	0.018667	0.022805	1.2833
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217163	0.265308	14.9299
Mexico	New Peso	0.075752	0.092546	5.2079
New Zealand	Dollar	0.571321	0.697983	39.2783
South Africa	Rand	0.128629	0.157146	8.8432
Korea	Won	0.000796	0.000973	0.0548
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024769	0.030260	1.7029

Stocks

From page B1

It was the main index's best finish since Aug. 19 when it ended at 1,966.33. The broader all-shares index was up 1.14 points to 1,188.20.

Volume stood at 353.26 million shares worth P918.6 million. Gainers outnumbered losers 37 to 28, with 47 stocks unchanged.

Dealers said the market continued to stage a technical rebound following weeks of decline, supported by foreign buying.

Data from the stock exchange showed foreign investors were net buyers in the past four sessions.

"Technical indicators have hinted a strong reversal (from weakness in previous weeks) coupled with renewed confidence from investors," said Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities.

But he said the positive momentum may have tapered off amid concerns of a rate hike and higher oil prices.

"We expected a correction after the four-day surge. But there was foreign buying towards the end of the session," added Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities Inc.

Macapagal said the index should be able to break through the 1,970 resistance. *AFP*

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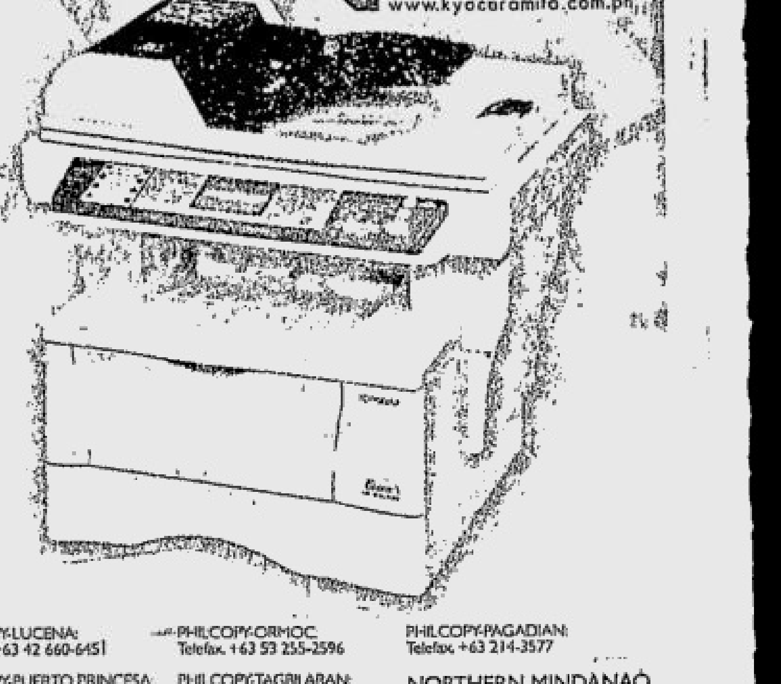

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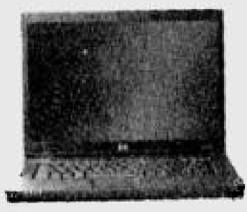

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PNOC to tap potential partners in Russia

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CO. HAS set its sights on Russia as a possible partner for the exploration and development of new oil and gas resources.

In an interview at the sidelines of the PowerTrends conference and trade exhibition, PNOC president Eduardo Manalac said he would soon visit Russia with Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo to meet with Russian energy executives.

The planned meetings, he said, would serve as a follow-up to former Energy Secretary Vincent Perez's visit to Russia to discuss supply agreements with oil producers.

In an effort to seek new oil and gas sources outside the country, he said PNOC would be using political and cultural practices as a tool in reaching out to other countries.

He said that Malaysia, for example, was able to use its predominantly Muslim religion and culture to forge alliances with other Muslim countries.

He said PNOC could use the country's good relationships with other countries as a takeoff point for possible new oil and gas exploration agreements.

The country's good relationship with the Gambian government, for example, resulted in Gambia's offer for PNOC to explore and develop, free of charge, one of five potential oil and gas blocks there, he said.

Manalac said the state firm had already conducted initial assessment of available data on six Gambian exploration blocks to help it decide whether or not it would actually explore.

Gov't urged to limit borrowings

By Doris C. Dumlao

FORMER BANGKO SENTRAL GOVERNOR Rafael Buenaventura yesterday cautioned the government against relying too much on foreign loans, except for refinancing and infrastructure needs.

Buenaventura said that even with the budget surpluses in the previous months, the country was still far from doing away with external borrowings.

He said the country's foreign debt servicing burden next year was projected to increase to $7.9 billion from $7.62 billion this year,

"If we keep borrowing to cover the cost of running the government, we are definitely headed for trouble," Buenaventura said in a speech before the joint membership meeting of the Financial Executives Association of the Philippines, Makati Business Club and Management Association of the Philippines.

"For example, if you are a company and you borrow money to expand your factory, that should be fine, but to borrow to meet payroll is not sustainable," he warned.

He said the government must close the fiscal gap and stop running budget deficits over the next few years.

"Our enormous financial needs and refinancing requirements require us to continue our foreign borrowings, but if we can limit them to refinancing and for capital development or new new infrastructure, we should be fine," he said.

At present, he said the country's foreign debt level was at an "amber light with a twist"—not bad but not good either.

He said the global financial markets still had appetite for the country's debt issuances and there was no bunching up of outstanding debts, which meant that maturing debts could be refinanced in the next few years.

However, he said global financial markets were not always expected to remain benign while domestic political situation was still volatile and unpredictable.

Aside from fiscal reforms, Buenaventura said the country would benefit from further banking and financial market reforms.

Climax seeks investors in Didipio project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CLIMAX ARIMCO MINING CORP., THE local unit of Climax Mining Ltd. of Australia, is keen on tapping partners for its $100-million gold and copper project in northeastern Luzon.

Company chair Jose P. Leviste Jr. said in an interview the firm was holding talks with financial institutions and interested parties that might want to take up as much as 33-percent interest in the project.

"The Didipio project is very attractive considering that copper concentrates are in short supply in the world," Leviste said.

He said Climax Arimco planned to raise a third of the required investment through equity and two-thirds through financing.

Leviste said the firm was in the thick of discussion with possible partners Pan Pacific Copper Ltd. of Japan and LG International of South Korea.

The Didipio gold-copper prospect covers 21,465 hectares of land in Kasibu town of Nueva Vizcaya and Nagtipunan town of Quirino.

Company data show that Didipio's reserves account for 20 million tons of minerals valued at about $513 million.

The mine has an expected life of at least 14 years, which will need a thousand workers during construction and 476 workers during commercial operations.

Former PSALM chief sues coal firm officials

FORMER POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND Liabilities Management Corp. head Edgardo del Fonso has asked the Makati Regional Trial Court to declare as illegal the move of certain officials of coal exploration and mining firm Daguma Agro-minerals Inc. to remove him as the company's president and director.

In his complaint, Del Fonso claimed that certain officers of Daguma, led by its chair Benjamin T. Guingona and board member Mamerto Bocanegra, "unlawfully and unjustly deprived" him of his right and duty to perform his functions as company president, and that he was being divested of his shares in the company.

Del Fonso alleged his removal from the company was proposed and tackled in a board meeting although it was not part of the agenda and that he was replaced by former Commission on Election Chair Christian Monsod "without the benefit of an election."

"Monsod was simply declared director and president without securing the required majority vote of all the directors present," he said. Daguma was established last year to tap potential coal deposits in the Southern Cotabato area. Del Fonso said he was invited to join the firm and provide the necessary financial and technical assistance to the venture.

Del Fonso is also asking the Makati RTC to stop Daguma from implementing the planned conversion of alleged advances to the company by certain officials into payments for their subscriptions. He said there was no quorum when the conversion was approved.

He also said he was "deprived of his stockholder's rights to inspect the books of Daguma."

Icebergs . . .

From page B4

oped countries' desired paradigm of leveling tariffs alone.

We should not be forced to reduce our tariffs until the summation of the developed countries tariffs and subsidies equals our own. When an Alyansa Agrikultura leader proposed this negotiating position during the workshop, Werner Zdouc, the workshop's resource person and a Counselor in the WTO Appellate Body Secretariat, said it was a logical position. However, he added that it was very difficult to attain.

What will or will not be attained at the WTO Ministerial Meeting will be determined not only by the skills of the negotiators but also by the support given by their constituents in their home countries. It is one country, one vote in the WTO, where there are more developing countries than developed ones. We should therefore unite with the enlightened developed countries to achieve fair trade.

Oxfam International has embarked on a "Big Noise" campaign to collect 10 million signatures globally to "make trade fair" for presentation during the coming WTO negotiations. Already, Oxfam has collected more than 8 million signatures from over 200 countries and territories.

The Alyansa Agrikultura is supporting this campaign (for more information and a 3 pm October 6 meeting on this, please call Cyd Arcena at 926-4415). With our strong support, our government negotiators will not be misled by the iceberg tips and styrofoam boxes on the WTO horizon. They will instead avoid these dangerous icebergs and chart the fair trade course required for Philippine agricultural development.

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Smart readies purge of costly subscribers

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC. IS PURGING non-earning subscribers and the clean-up, which could halt client take-up from the end-June level of 20.8 million, will be completed by the fourth quarter, its top official said.

By the end of the year, the subscriber base that Smart and Talk 'N Text will announce will truly reflect the number of its revenue-generating customers, said Smart president Napoleon Nazareno.

He said the purging would be felt most in October and November, five months since the country's largest mobile phone company stopped the practice of giving away free SIM (subscriber identification module) cards in exchange for a rival's phone chip.

The clean-up would not have an impact, however, on revenues of Smart or of Pilipino Telephone Corp. that operates the Talk 'N Text brand.

Nazareno said revenue from the wireless units of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. continued to grow in July and August.

"So far, we have not experienced negative subscriber growth. July and August still gave us small net additions. But by October and November, I think it would be a negative number," said Nazareno in an interview.

The two-year practice employed by Smart and fierce rival Globe Telecom Inc. to boost subscriber numbers failed to work for their bottomlines because the strategy increased spending without delivering sufficient revenues.

Estimated to number between 3 and 4 million, the SIM swap subscribers include those who moved from one network to another almost every month to take advantage of the free P50 load in each phone chip.

Globe estimated it would save P300 million each quarter when it stopped the SIM swap, also last May.

"The impact of stopping the SIM swap would be felt the most in the fourth quarter. It could be offset by the holiday spending. But we will see," said Nazareno.

The Smart president had ruled out meeting a 22- to 23-million subscriber target by yearend. He said the projection made at the start of the year considered continuing the SIM swap program.

"Let us be clear that the purging of subscribers won't have any impact on our revenue," he said.

"By the end of the year, we would have an accurate picture of our subscriber base and, from there, we could plan more effectively," Nazareno pointed out.

Smart and Talk 'N Text added only about 500,000 customers during the second quarter compared to previous trends of drawing a million or more new subscribers into the fold.

BSP overhauls penalty scheme for errant banks

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS overhauled its monetary penalty system to better classify breaches of banking regulations based on gravity of offense and the erring bank's size.

The calibration is in line with proposed changes in the BSP's charter, which among others, seeks to increase the maximum monetary penalty on banks from the current P30,000 to P300,000 per violation per day.

The new penalty system also considers aggravating or mitigating circumstances. Such aggravating circumstances could be concealment of the offense or inaction while a mitigating factor could be evidence of good faith.

The new BSP circular clarified the definition of "serious" offense to cover any unsafe or unsound banking practices, whether acts or omissions, which are contrary to accepted standards of prudent banking operation and may result in exposure to abnormal risk or loss.

A less serious offense, on the other hand, is defined as a major act or omission, which includes failure to comply with the requirements of banking laws, rules and regulations as well as directives having material impact on the bank's solvency, liquidity or profitability.

A minor offense includes acts or omissions which are procedural in nature and can be corrected immediately, and do not have material impact on the solvency, liquidity and profitability of the bank.

The calibration also considers the violator's asset size, which means that a rural bank which had committed the same offense as a commercial bank will be slapped with a lower fine.

Under the proposed amendments to its charter sponsored by Senate banking committee chair Edgardo Angara, the BSP may slap stiffer sanctions on erring banks and its officers.

Criminal penalties for violation of banking laws and regulations will be increased from P200,000 to P2 million.

Under the draft charter, serious or grave violation by universal and commercial banks or their directors or officers shall be slapped with the maximum daily fine of P300,000. Less serious violations shall be charged P150,000 and minor violations with P50,000 per day.

For subsidiaries of universal and commercial banks, thrift banks, quasi-banks and their subsidiaries and affiliates, grave violations shall be penalized P100,000 per day, less grave offenses with P50,000 and minor violations with P25,000.

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SEPTEMBER 3 (Davao Holiday Spa)
Mindanao Eliminations Champion
Smash Ville Fitness Center

SEPTEMBER 3 (Metro Sports Badminton Club)
Visayas Eliminations Champion
Portside Badminton Plaza

SEPTEMBER 10-11 (Alabang Racquet Club)
SouthEliminations Champion **Alabang Country Club**
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ASSUMPTION BATCH '80 HOLDS BAZAAR THIS SUNDAY

Assumption College Batch '80 will hold the Assumption Bazaar on Sunday, Sep. 25 and Oct. 2 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental. Members of the steering committee are (seated, from left) Baby Goyena Herrera, Cynthia Cu-unjieng Bunag, Lulu Fragante Hukom, and Marijo Macasaet Severino. Standing, from left, are Glenda Martinez Castillo, Janet Litton Coronel, Girlie Protacio Tuaño, Abine Mapagay, Biso Limjap Villaseñor, and Marissa Barredo Teaño. Other members not shown are Amy Manas, Anne Cumagun, Corie Ignacio Clavano, Ace de Guzman Navarro, Marissa Topacio Bautista and Macy Macam Pineda. Proceeds from the bazaar will benefit the Assumption Charities. For more information, call the Assumption Alumnae Office at 894-3561 or 894-3580. Event benefactor for the Assumption Bazaar is Smart Communications. Event sponsor is Gulf Air and event patrons are Bruno's Barbers, De Capricho Jewellers, Tinette & Co Salon Professionals and Infinity Rent-a-Car.

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MOVIE GUIDE

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2 (DOLBY)	THE CONSTANT GARDENER
3 (DOLBY)	THE PERFECT CATCH *GP*
4 (DOLBY)	LAND OF THE DEAD *R13*

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	DARK WATER *PG13*

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	LAND OF THE DEAD
2	THE PERFECT CATCH
3	SOUND OF THUNDER
4	DARK WATER

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	DARK WATER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	LAND OF THE DEAD
5	SOUND OF THUNDER

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 6433994

1	LOVE STRUCK
2	LAND OF THE DEAD
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	DARK WATER
6	SOUND OF THUNDER

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY)	ELVIST HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
2	

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	THE BROTHERS GRIMM
2 (SDDS)	SKY HIGH
3 (DTS)	THE PERFECT CATCH
4 GOLD (DTS)	CINDERELLA MAN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	CONSTANT GARDENER
6 GOLD (SDDS)	DARK WATER
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	LAND OF THE DEAD
8 ([illegible])	SOUND OF THUNDER
9 ([illegible])	BLADE OF THE ROSE
10 ([illegible])	LOVE STRUCK

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	DARK WATER
2 (DOLBY)	LAND OF THE DEAD
3 (DOLBY)	THE PERFECT CATCH
4 (DOLBY)	LONG WEEKEND

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	LAND OF THE DEAD
2	DARK WATER
3	RESERVED
4	LOVE STRUCK
5	CONSTANT GARDENER

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	THE GREAT RAID
2	ELVIST HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
3	CRUSH
4	RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	BLADE OF THE ROSE
2	LAND OF THE DEAD
3	LOVE STRUCK

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	VALIANT
2	LONGEST YARD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	DUKES OF HAZZARD
2	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DTS EX)	RED EYE
4	LOVE STRUCK

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	LOVE STRUCK
2	LONGEST YARD
3 (DOLBY)	RED EYE
4 (DTS)	DUKES OF HAZZARD

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	LOVE STRUCK
2	SKELETON KEY
3 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
4 (DTS)	MUST LOVE DOGS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	LOVE STRUCK
2	LONGEST YARD

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	LAND OF THE DEAD
2 (DOLBY)	THE PERFECT CATCH
3 (DOLBY)	DARK WATER
4 (DOLBY)	CONSTANT GARDENER

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	WEDDING CRASHER
2 (DTS)	LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY)	RED EYE
4	LONG WEEKEND

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	LOVE STRUCK
2 (DOLBY)	RED EYE
3 (DTS)	WEDDING CRASHER
4	LONG WEEKEND

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SKY HIGH
2	LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY)	MUST LOVE DOGS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT
2	LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY)	SKY HIGH
4 (DTS)	RED EYE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 796.3320

1	SKELETON KEY
2	LOVE STRUCK
3 (DOLBY)	CINDERELLA MAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE EYE INFINITY
2	TIKIM
3	INIT NG DUGO
4 (DTS)	ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	LONG WEEKEND
2	LIPSTICK
3 (DTS)	RED EYE
4	WEDDING CRASHER
5	LOVE STRUCK

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LONGEST YARD
2	RED EYE
3	DUKE OF HAZZARD
4	LOVE STRUCK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	U-BELT
2	SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MANILA GAS CORPORATION (MGC)
INTER-ISLAND GAS SERVICES INC. (IIGSI)

INVITATION TO PUBLIC BIDDING

MGC/IIGSI announces the re-bidding of its Paco and Cebu properties through sealed public bidding. The submission of bids is scheduled on October 05, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. The bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. on the same date.

1. Paco Properties

NORTH PROPERTY		SOUTH PROPERTY	
Located on Sanciangco St., Paco Manila		Located at 1536 Paz Guazon St., Paco Manila	
TCT No.	Area	TCT No.	Area
34304	2,608 20 sqm	39480	536 80 sqm
33924	2, 231 40	39482	2,239.00
33924	7,431 20	39482	1,727 73
		25165	502.00
		25165	34,990 00
	12,270 80 sqm		39,895.53 sqm

2. Cebu Property - located along the Barangay Road, barangay Opao, Mandaue City

TCT No.	Area
18998	2,128 00 sqm
18999	9,529.00
	11,657.00 sqm

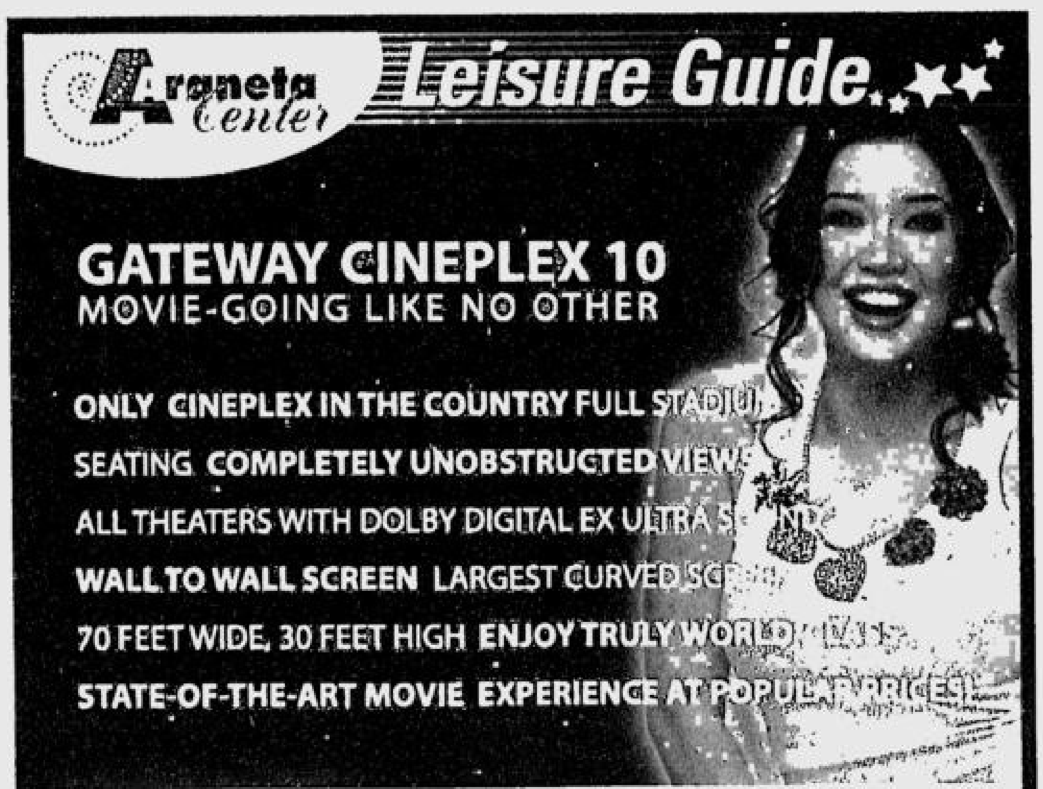
Interested parties may secure the Bidding Package from MGC c/o Ms. Ellen Paracale at the 7/F NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City with tel no. 8404838 loc. 223 & 313/Fax No. 8404862 and IIGSI c/o Mr. Charlie Villegas, 3215 District 5 Sangi, Barangay Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City with tel. no. 032-3418874. A pre-bidding conference will be held on September 26, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The sale of the above properties shall be strictly on **CASH-AS-IS WHERE-IS BASIS.**

MGC/IIGSI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive any of the formalities required, or to accept only such which are deemed advantageous to MGC/IIGSI

(PDI- Sept 22, 23 & 24. 2005)

Araneta Center **Leisure Guide**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	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
PERFECT CATCH 12:50 / 3:30 / 6:10 / 8:50	PERFECT CATCH 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
LAND OF THE DEAD 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20	CINDERELLA MAN 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
DARK WATER 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	THE BROS. GRIMM 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
CONSTANT GARDENER 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00	LOVESTRUCK 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
BLADE OF THE ROSE 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30	NOLI ME TANGERE 1:00 TINIMBANG KA NGUNIT KULANG 5:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ DARK WATER 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	❹ LOVESTRUCK 12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50
❷ BLADE OF THE ROSE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	❺ A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
❸ LAND OF THE DEAD 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

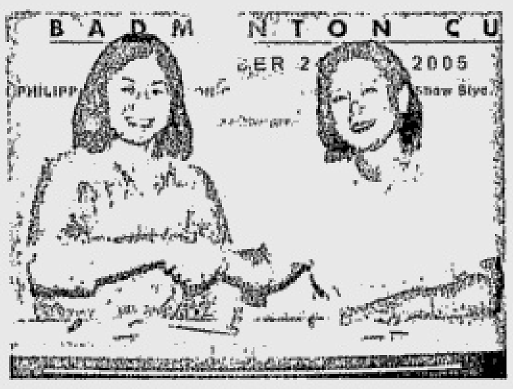
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES *If nec. Sep 23, Fri*	SSC-R vs SBC Jrs 2 pm CSJL vs PCU Srs 4 pm	NYOY VOLANTE in ANG MARINO, BOW ! *September 24, Saturday 8 pm*

CENTER EVENTS

EXHIBITS	*Negros Trade Fair starts today until October 2 at Level 2 of Gateway Mall*
PERFORMANCES	*Weekend Live Jazz featuring Chedi at The Gateway Drive starting 9pm tonight*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES.



SUMMER'S EVE, WHISPER FOR BADMINTON CHALLENGE

Blooming Fields, exclusive distributor of Summer's Eve, America's number one feminine hygiene product, and Procter & Gamble, makers of Whisper, are back at the court with the 3 Whisper and Summer's Eve Badminton Cup. Women are all geared up to showcase their badminton prowess this Sep. 24 and 25 at the Yonex Philippines Badminton Court. Now on its 3rd tourney, this all-female shuttlecock battle started firing up the courts since November 2004. For interested parties, registration is ongoing. To download registration forms and the FAQs, log on to www.bloomingfields.net or www.yehey.com. For more details, call Ivy Malagao at 817-6514, 817-6532 and 0928-4330318 and Bernard Abeleda at 0917-8664845. Shown is Queenie Go-Cua (left), Whisper assistant brand manager, with Maize Sycip-Qua, general manager of Blooming Fields Philippines Inc.

Bits Clips

Digital photo course

OFFICE WORKERS, professionals, housewives, students and other interested parties can attend a hands-on course on digital photography to be held in Makati starting Sep. 24. This 4-Saturday workshop, organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, covers digital camera functions, correct exposure, flash in low and bright lights, digital file formats, pixel damage, and preparing images for print, presentations, and Web transmission. Basic requirements are a digital camera and familiarity with Microsoft Windows operations. For more information, call FPPF (Lerma Aquino) at 813-7420 or 843-5341.

Seminar on food business

MB&G/PROACTIVE IS now accepting reservations for the Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop slated for Sep. 26 to 30 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Restaurateurs, hoteliers, resort and canteen operators and those planning to open their own food-service business now have a chance to hone their skills. Reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, call Manu Oflaza at 687-1787 or 0915-4315375. Seminar fee is inclusive of manual and handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials and equipment.

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Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Rd. South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila.

46th TESDA BOARD MEETING
19 May 2005, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-10

APPROVING AND PROMULGATING THE TRAINING REGULATIONS FOR HOUSEHOLD SERVICES NC II AND PYROTECHNICS NC II

WHEREAS, in the 8th Standard Setting and Systems Development – TESDA Board and TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 29 March 2005, the Household Services NCII and Pyrotechnics NCII were listed as priority qualifications;

WHEREAS, during the 9th Standard Setting and Systems Development – TESDA Board and TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 12 May 2005, the Training Regulations for Household Services NCII and Pyrotechnics NCII were deliberated and favorably recommended/endorsed to the TESDA Board for approval;

WHEREAS, during the 42nd Executive Committee – TESDA Board Meeting held on 16 May 2005, the EXCOM-TESDA BOARD endorsed favorably the approval and promulgation of the training regulations for Household Services NCII and Pyrotechnics NCII.

WHEREAS, the Technical Experts have endorsed for promulgation the following Training Regulations;

1. Household Service NCII
2. Pyrotechnics NCII

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves and promulgates the Training Regulations for Household Services NCII and Pyrotechnics NCII;

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the Resolution and Training Regulations (TR) be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All training programs under these training regulations must comply with the requirements of the abovementioned TRs. Graduates of TVET courses covered by the abovementioned training regulations shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system.

Adopted this 19th May 2005.

Ma. Adorinda de Jesus-Forro
MA. ADORINDA DE JESUS-FORRO
Board Secretary VI

Attested by:

SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Alternate Chair, TESDA Board
Director General, Technical and Educational Skills Development Authority

SECRETARY PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Department of Labor and Employment
Chair, TESDA Board

(PDI - Sept. 22-23, 2005)

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Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 551-22-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

CITY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROJECT

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) has obtained a technical assistance grant from Japan Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). A part of this grant will be used to secure consultancy contracts to assist LBP in the overall program framework development, and the qualified Local Government Units (LGUs) in the evaluation of Feasibility Study (FS) of projects for financing under the City Development and Investment Project (CDIP).

The consultancy services shall include but shall not be limited to the formulation of Project Framework, Operations Manual, review of sub-project proposals of the Local Government Units (LGUs), preparation of Terms of Reference (TOR) for the conduct of Feasibility Study (FS) of subprojects, assistance in the procurement of consultancy firms to conduct the feasibility studies of the subproject, supervision of consultants commissioned to conduct the feasibility studies of subprojects and provide technical assistance and advise to LGUs in sub-project identification, prioritization and other preparatory works for sub-project implementation.

LBP through its Official Development Assistance - Bids and Awards Committee (ODA-BAC) now invites qualified and experienced individual consultants in the following fields and express their interest in providing consultancy services.

1. Municipal Finance Specialist:
2. Municipal Engineer:
3. Financial Economist;
4. Environmental Specialist;
5. Power Production & Distribution Engineer;
6. Water Production & Distribution Engineer;
7. Solid Waste Management Engineer;
8. Sociologist/Community Participation Specialist; and
9. Procurement Specialist

The individual consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Individual Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999, and May 2002).

The purpose of this invitation for expressions of interest is to come up with a short list of qualified consultants who shall be hired by LBP thru ODA-BAC.

Letters of Expressions of Interest, with accompanying curriculum vitae, must be delivered on or before September 29, 2005, 2:00 P.M. and addressed to:

MELINDA C. CRUZ
Asst. Department Head, Program Management Department
TWG-CDIP Chairperson
28th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
1598 M.H.del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets
Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines

The ODA-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any pre-qualification documents, and assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify for any expense that the consultants will incur in the preparation of their pre-qualification documents.

(Sgd.) **SIMEONA S. GUEVARRA**
Senior Vice President
ODA-BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 23, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
RO 10-2005-001, Regional office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on : July 28, 2004

Supply of Trucking/Hauling Services

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *National Food Authority, Region 10*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Trucker/ Hauler owners/ operators/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Contracts for the Supply of Trucking/ Hauling Services
Location	:	Cagayan de Oro City NFA Owned/Contracted Warehouses to NFA Bukidnon, Lanao Norte, Misamis Occidental, Camiguin Warehouses
Brief Description	:	Contract involves the hauling of bags of Rice from NFA Cagayan de Oro City to designated destinations.
Source of Rice Stocks	:	NFA Cagayan de Oro City Owned/ Leased Warehouses

CONTRACT NO.	DESTINATION PROVINCE/ WAREHOUSE	ESTIMATED VOLUME IN BAGS OF 50 kg	MINIMUM NUMBER OF TRUCKS REQUIRED	MINIMUM NET LOAD CAPACITY (BAGS) REQUIRED	RATE/ BAG OF 50 kg	APPROVED BUDGET CEILING
	BUKIDNON					
1	GID AGLAYAN MALAYBALAY	6,000	3	1,200	P 17.05	P 102,300.00
2	GID VALENCIA VALENCIA	6,000	3	1,200	P 19.25	P 115,500.00
3	GID MARAMAG, MARAMAG	8,000	3	1,200	P 22.00	P 176,000.00
	LANAO NORTE/					
4	GID BARAAS, ILIGAN CITY	26,000	7	2,800	P 14.85	P 386,100.00
5	GID LALA, LALA	7,000	3	1,200	P 24.20	P 169,400.00
6	MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL GID GANGO, OZAMIS CITY	30,000	8	3,200	P 30.80	P 924,000.00
7.	CAMIGUIN LAKAS FLGC, MAMBAJAO	27,000	5	2,000	P 27.50	P 742,500.00

Contract Duration Delivery Period : Contracts No. 1-6 upon completion of the contracted volume but not to exceed thirty (30) days upon receipt of Notice of Award Contract No. 7 not to exceed ninety (90) days upon receipt of Notice of Award

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	ADDRESS	DATE	TIME
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	2nd Floor, Region 10, Regional Office NFA Bldg., Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Sept. 26-Oct. 03, 2005	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Working Days
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	October 6, 2005	10:00 AM
3. Deadline for Submission & Receipt of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	October 25, 2005	10:00 AM
4. Opening of Bids	Conference Room, 2F NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	October 25, 2005	10:05 AM
5. Bid Evaluation		Oct. 26-Nov. 03, 2005	
6. Post-Qualification		Oct. 26-Nov. 03, 2005	
7. Notice of Award		Nov. 07, 2005	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos Only (P2,500.00) to the National Food Authority Cashier.

The National Food Authority, Region 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The *National Food Authority, Region 10* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) **CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 23 & 30, 2005)

CAGELCO II

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCO II) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following:

1. Local Area Network (LAN)
2. Utility Inventory Management System
3. Distribution Line Construction (Materials and Labor)

To be qualified, bidder must have fully compiled with the following:

1. Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Accreditation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacinto)
   - a. Company Profile
   - b. Business Registration
   - c. Business Permit
   - d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   - e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   - f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements – September 30, 2005.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI - Sept. 17 & 23, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) UNITS INVESTORS HOUSE AT THE ZAMBOECOZONE FIRST INDUSTRIAL PARK

1. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **THREE MILLION FIFTY-THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT PESOS & 32/100 ONLY (P3,053,578.32)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Construction of Two (2) Units Investors Houses"**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening
2. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the "Construction of Two (2) Units Investors Houses". Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) on September 22-27, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **October 3, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building** on or before **October 3, 2005.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on **October 10-14, 2005** during office hours
6. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 17, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City**.
7. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **October 28, 2005** at 10:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check in an amount of **Thirty Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Five Pesos & 78/100 Only (P30,535.78)** and GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of **Seventy-Six Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Nine Pesos & 46/100 (P76,339.46)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **October 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **October 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.**
8. Completion of the Works is required by 120 calendar days.
9. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

(Sgd.) **GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU**
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0209
E-mail: Ecozone_bac@yahoo.com

(PDI - Sept. 16 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (PUBLIC BIDDING)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) wishes to invite bidders for the **Frame Relay Subscription for PHILHEALTH Head Office and Regional Offices**.

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from September 16, 2005 to September 29, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC) Room 1804, 18th Floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php **4,250.00.**

The PhilHealth had provided funds for this project. The approved budget for this contract is **Php 8,500,000.00.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on September 30, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC (Rm. 1804).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes and drop in the respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Submission of bids will be on October 21, 2005 on or before 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the PhilHealth's bundy clock located at the lobby of 18th floor. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Php 85,000.00
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php 127,500.00
Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)	Php 212,500.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php 8,500,000.00

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements of this project. Furthermore, PhilHealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **MELINDA C. MERCADO**
SVP, Health Insurance Operations Sector and
Chairperson, BAC-ITR

(PDI - Sept. 16 & 23, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given the estate of the late JULITA C. BAUTISTA has been extrajudicially settled by her legal heirs as per Doc No. 62 Page No. 14 Book No. VII Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty Benigno M. Puno of Pasig City
(PDI-Sept 16, 23 & 30, 2005)

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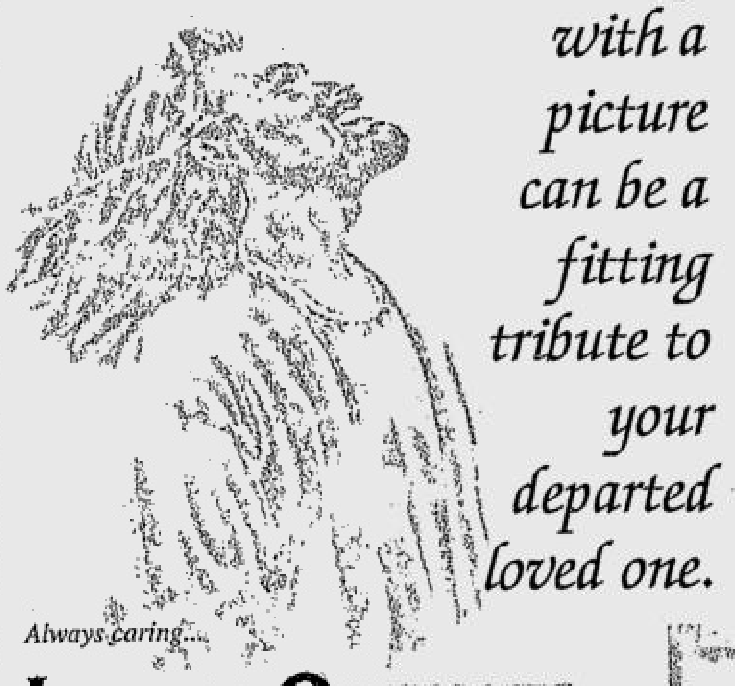
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440



An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

Philippine Breast Cancer Network
Observes September 23rd as
Fallen Breast Cancer Warrior's Day

"Do not stand at our graves and weep,
We are not there, we do not sleep.
We are the million stars that glow;
We are the thousand winds that blow;
We are the gentle drops of rain.
We are the sunlight on the ripened grain.
We are the quiet birds in circled flight.
We are the soft hush of restful night.
Do not stand at our graves and cry.
We are not there, we did not die."

"Freedom from Breast Cancer!"

www.pbcn.org (0919) 314-2072

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Amador Umali Malto

Of Bongabong, Or. Mindoro & Panorama Ville
Sta. Rosa City, Laguna

December 9, 1940 – Sept. 15, 2005

Free & Accepted Masonry – Tamaraw Lodge No. 65
Saigon Lodge No. 188

Rotary Club of Cabuyao

His wife: **Nene** (nee **Bailon**); His Children: **Clementine – Ver (San Juan); Michelle, Michel – Glenda; Charmagne; Sharron – Jojo (Ramirez)**, His Parents: **Maximino** (†) – **Edilberta** (†), His sisters & brothers: **Eden** (†) – **Ising** (†); **Ruben – Raida, Dr. Er – Pat; Elinor – Rene**, His grandchildren: **Chino, Valerie, Charles & Carlo (San Juan); Joshua – Samantha (Ramirez)**, in-laws, nephews, nieces & other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the San Ramon Funeral Chapel, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna.

CLASSIFIEDS

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 551-22-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

CITY DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT PROJECT

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) has obtained a technical assistance grant from Japan Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and intends to apply part of this grant to secure consultancy contract to support qualified Local Government Units (LGUs) in the preparation of Feasibility Study (FS), for project for funding under the City Development and Investment Project (CDIP).

LBP through its Official Development Assistance - Bids and Awards Committee (ODA-BAC) now invites qualified and experienced consulting firms to express their interest in providing the consultancy services in any of the following fields:

1. Solid Waste Management & Sanitary Landfill Project;
2. Water Supply & Sanitation Project;
3. Drainage, Sewerage & Waste Water Treatment Facility Project;
4. Power Generation Project
5. Site Development & Housing Project; and
6. Urban Enterprises Facilities (such as bus terminal, market, business center)

Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (e.g., brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff etc.), ensure that staff has the following: skills, expertise and experience involving demand driven projects, financial resources to back up projects and other valuable information. Consultants may associate themselves to enhance their qualifications.

The consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999, and May 2002).

The purpose of this invitation for expressions of interest is to come up with a short list of pre-qualified consultants in (a) solid waste management & sanitary landfill project; (b) water supply & sanitation project; (c) drainage,sewerage & waste water treatment facility project; (d) power generation project; (e) site development & housing project; and (f) urban enterprises facilities (such as bus terminal, market, business center). Pre-qualified consultants will still be invited to submit proposals, and no award will be made as a result of this invitation.

Letters of Expressions of Interest, with accompanying company profiles and documents, must be delivered on or before October 6, 2005, 2:00 P.M. and addressed to:

MELINDA C. CRUZ
Asst. Department Head, Program Management Department
TWG-CDIP Chairperson
28th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
1598 M.H.del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets
Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines

The ODA-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any pre-qualification documents, and assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify for any expense that the consultants will incur in the preparation of their pre-qualification documents.

(Sgd.) **SIMEONA S. GUEVARRA**
Senior Vice President
ODA-BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

East Service Road, South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

47th TESDA BOARD MEETING

4 August 2005, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005-15

Approving and Promulgating the Training Regulations for Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song), Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII

WHEREAS, Section 14 Item (b) of RA 7796 mandates that TESDA shall develop and establish a national system of skills standardization, testing and certification and to conduct research and development on various occupational areas in order to recommend policies, rules and regulations for effective and efficient skills standardization, testing and certification system in the country;

WHEREAS, in the 8th Standard Setting and Systems Development TESDA Board - TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 29 March 2005, the Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song), Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII were listed as priority qualifications;

WHEREAS, in the 10th Standard Setting and Systems Development TESDA Board - TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting held last 23 June 2005 the Training Regulations for the For Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song) NCII And Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII were listed as priority qualifications;

WHEREAS, in the 43rd Executive Committee - TESDA Board Meeting held on 14 July 2005 the EXCOM-TESDA Board endorsed favorably the approval and promulgation of the training regulations for Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song) NCII And Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII were listed as priority qualifications;

WHEREAS, the technical experts have endorsed for promulgation the following training regulations:

- Front Office Services NCII
- Baking/Pastry Production NCII
- Fish Capture NCI
- Agri-Crops Production NCI
- Food Processing NCII
- Security Services NCI
- Health Care Services NCII
- Performing Arts (Song) NCII
- Performing Arts (Dance) NCII
- Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle)
- Beauty Care NCII
- Beauty Care NCIII
- Hairdressing NCII
- Hairdressing NCIII

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approve and promulgate the Training Regulations for Front Office Services NCII, Baking/Pastry Production NCII, Fish Capture NCI, Agri-Crops Production NCI, Food Processing NCII, Security Services NCI, Health Care Services NCII, Performing Arts (Song) NCII and Performing Arts (Dance) NCII, Driving NCIII (Articulated Vehicle), Beauty Care NCII, Beauty Care NCIII, Hairdressing NCII and Hairdressing NCIII;

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the resolution and Training Regulations (TRs) be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All training regulations must comply with the requirements of the above mentioned TRs. Graduates of TVET courses covered by the abovementioned training regulation shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system.

Adopted this 4th of August 2005.

Ma. Adorinda de Jesus-Forro
MA. ADORINDA DE JESUS-FORRO
Board Secretary VI

Attested by:

SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Alternate Chair, TESDA Board
Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
SECRETARY PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Department of Labor and Employment
Chair, TESDA Board

(PDI - Sept. 22 & 23, 2005)

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MOTOR VEHICLES; BATTERY OPERATED FORKLIFTS; DETERGENT MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENTS/SPARES; ELECTRICALS; AIR COMPRESSORS; POWER/HAND TOOLS; MISCELLANEOUS

MOTOR VEHICLES - MITSUBISHI LANCER MX AT; 2001 Model w/ Plate No. WSX-957; MITSUBISHI LANCER AT 2000 Model w/ Plate No. WMN-783; TOYOTA COROLLA GLI MT Sed 2001 Model w/ Plate No. WSR-387; IVECO MASIRUS 120-13' Air Cooled 6 Wheeler Boom Truck
BATTERY OPERATED FORKLIFTS - FBR15-5OS 1.5 Ton Capacity; FBR13-50S 1250 Ton Capacity
DETERGENT MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENTS/SPARES - ALLEN BRADLEY 1395 DC Controller; ALLEN BRADLEY 1336 Plus AC Drive Controller; ALLEN BRADLEY Bulletin 1394 Digital Servo Controller; ALLEN BRADLEY 1391 AC Servo Controller; DANFOSS Vanable Frequency Drives; DEMAG 3.2 Ton Capacity Cable Hoist; CFAS Paste Unloading/Dosing Assy; SS CFAS Hopper; SS Unloading Enzyme Hopper; NORGREN Air Cylinders; WILKERSON Lubricators; FESTO Air Filters; FORD Gard Clutch Brakes; FESTO Solenoid Valves; Conveyor Belts; Shafts; AC Motors; Soapdies; Gears; York Oil Heater, etc.
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AIR COMPRESSORS - ATLAS COPCO 132 kva Air Compressor; ATLAS COPCO 120 kva Air Compressor; ATLAS COPCO 100 kva Air Compressor; ATLAS COPCO 5 HP Dry Type Air Compressor; ATLAS COPCO FD 380 3 Phase Air Dryer
POWER/HAND TOOLS - MAKITA Drill & Grinder Combination; HITACHI Disc Grinders; VISE GRIP Locking Pliers; BALDWIN Bolt Cutters; ABRASTIFLEX Cutting Off Wheels; Sand Papers; etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - GROSSMAN Wooden Bi-Fold Louver Doors; Glass Door; Veneer Wood; TOYOSK Multi Tapping Machine; Sand Blasting Machine; MEIWA Compactor; Compressor Heads; 8-in-1 Rechargeable Emergency Lights; TUXEDO Coats; Flush Doors, Stainless Steel Doors; Oxygen Tanks; Sofas, Filing Cabinet; Volt; Stainless Steel Conveyors; Photocopier Machine, etc.

On View: Monday 26th September 2005 - 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php5,000 (upon registration)
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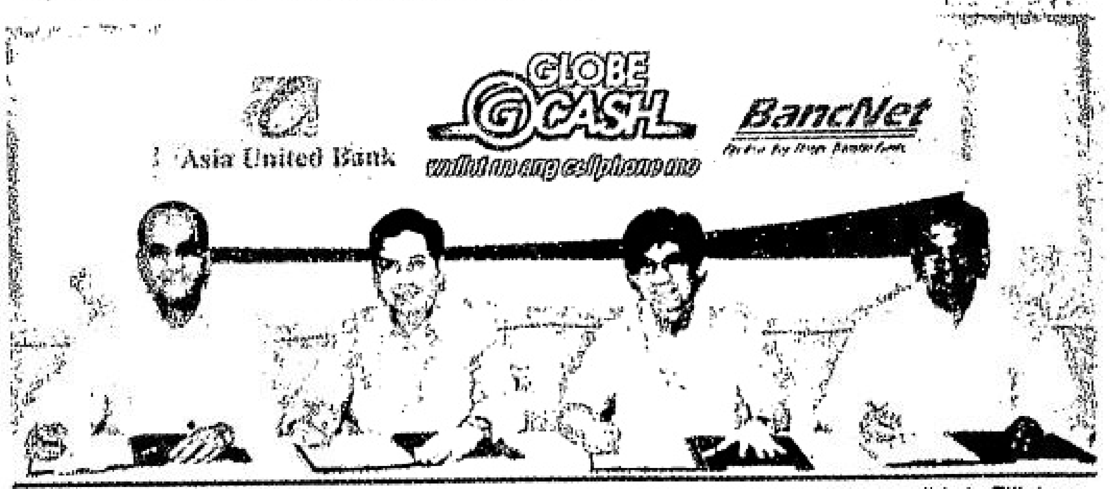
Globe G-Cash made easier with BancNet Interbank Fund Transfer

Globe G-Cash, the country's first and only wireless, cashless, and cardless integrated mobile payment system, will be made even more accessible by its latest collaboration with Asia United Bank (AUB) and BancNet, a leading ATM network.

Very soon, you will be able to transfer funds from your ATM account in a BancNet-member bank to your or somebody else's Globe G-Cash wallet through the BancNet Interbank Fund Transfer (IBFT) Facility. Just go to any BancNet ATM nationwide, log on to www.bancnetonline.com, or text through BancNet Mobile Banking. After choosing which account to deduct the amount from, which can either be the primary savings or current account linked to your ATM card, select Asia United Bank as the destination bank and enter your Globe Handyphone or TM mobile phone number and the desired amount to be transferred. Once the transaction is completed, a text message will be sent to the Globe Handyphone or TM mobile phone, confirming that Globe G-Cash has been received. Regular BancNet IBFT transaction fee will apply.



The partnership between G-Cash, AUB and BancNet makes m-commerce more accessible to Filipinos. Signing the agreement were (fr L-R) BancNet COO Aristeo Zafra, Jr., Asia United Bank senior vice president Francisco Caparros, Jr., G-Xchange, Inc. president Jose Roberto Mendoza , and Globe CIO Rodell Garcia.

This collaboration was recently formalized during the contract signing held at Chateau 1771 in Ortigas Center. Present during the momentous occasion were Francisco Caparros, Jr., Senior Vice President of AUB, Aristeo Zafra, Jr., Chief Operating Officer of BancNet, Inc., and Joey Mendoza, President of G-Xchange, Inc., a wholly-owned Globe Telecom subsidiary tasked to oversee the development of G-Cash. "M-commerce is truly the new wave of business, and Asia United Bank is pleased to partner with Globe G-Cash in making it more pervasive and practical for the Filipino consumer," said Caparros, noting that the collaboration covers 27 BancNet member banks for the three different modes of G-Cash transfer.

Established in 1990, BancNet pioneered ATM services in the Philippines and is considered the leading electronic network in the country, with over 4 million cardholders and 1,700 ATMs nationwide. The consortium welcomed Asia United Bank – a joint venture of Filipino industrialists and Taiwanese investment banks – to its roster of affiliates in 1997, the same year that AUB commenced operations as a commercial bank.

According to Mendoza, partnering with established financial institutions has contributed greatly to the success of Globe G-Cash. "The Globe G-Cash micropayment system is fully complemented by the traditional macro-processes of banks, and we build on each other's strengths to create an m-commerce system that is both swift and secure, as well as reliable and relevant," he said.

Since its launch in October 2004, Globe G-Cash has expanded the boundaries of Philippine business. By transcending the traditional borders of time and space, the service facilitates common commercial transactions such as purchases and payments, reloading of prepaid phone credits, phone-to-phone transfer of cash values, and domestic and international remittances.

On hand to celebrate this fruitful m-commerce partnership were (fr L-R): Geraldino Gayoso, Glenn Beni Dy, Rey Marukot, Aristeo Zafra, Jr., Wil Rodriguez, Francisco Caparros, Jr., Rodel Cayetano, Paolo Baltao, Joey Mendoza and Rodell Garcia.

Bancnet ATM Partners

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BancNet Online Partners

Allied Bank • Asia United Bank • China Bank • Chinatrust • CityState Savings Bank • Export Bank • PBCom • Philtrust • RCBC • RCBC Savings • Security Bank • Standard Chartered Bank

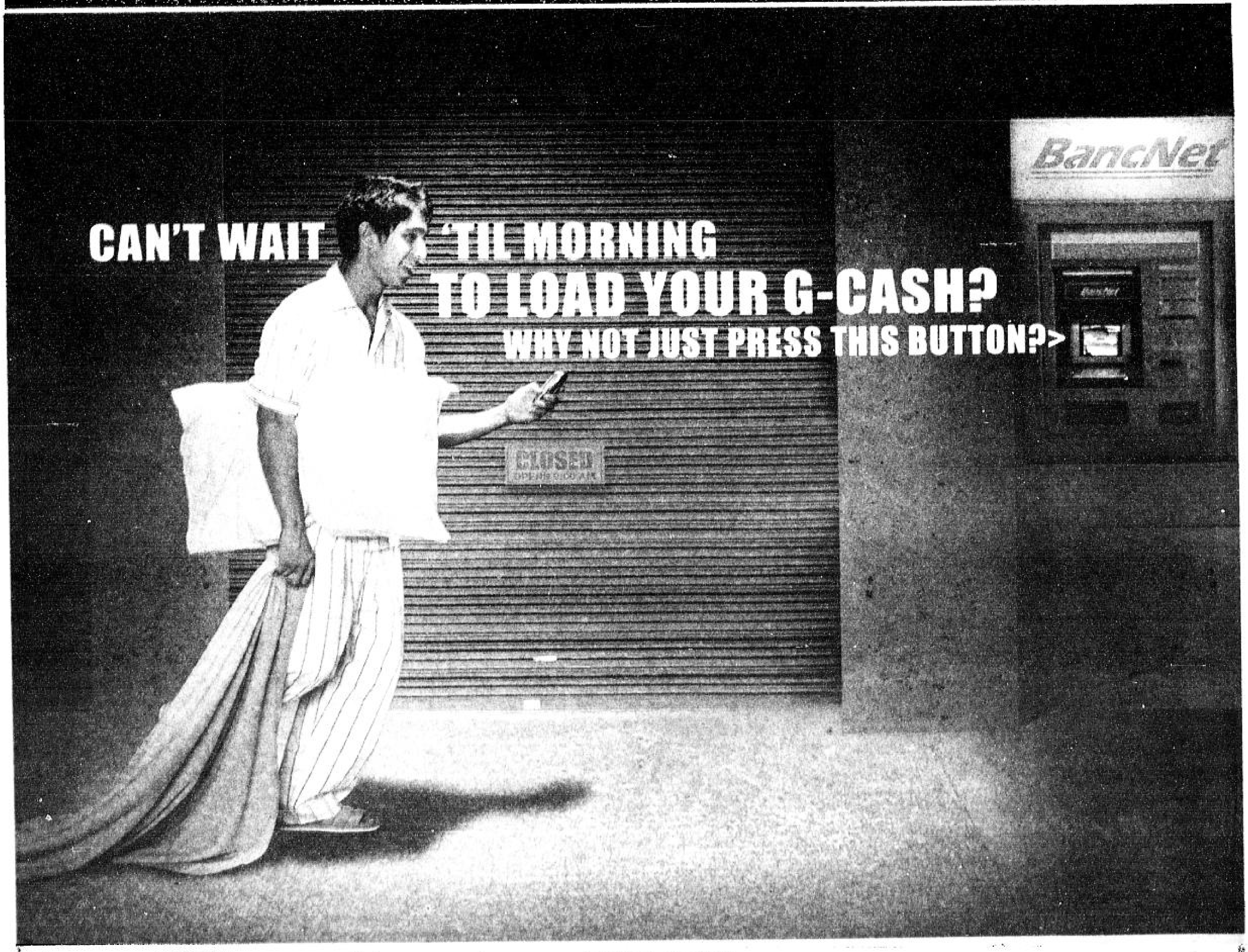
BancNet Mobile Banking Partners

Allied Bank • Chinatrust • CityState Savings Bank • RCBC • Security Bank

BancNet
Pay Bills, Buy Things, Transfer Funds.

Asia United Bank

GLOBE G CASH
wallet na ang cellphone mo



GLOBE G CASH

Make sure you have enough G-Cash for that urgent remittance transfer, phone reload or bill payment. Load up on G-Cash at any **BancNet ATM**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It's the easiest way to get G-Cash EVER.

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

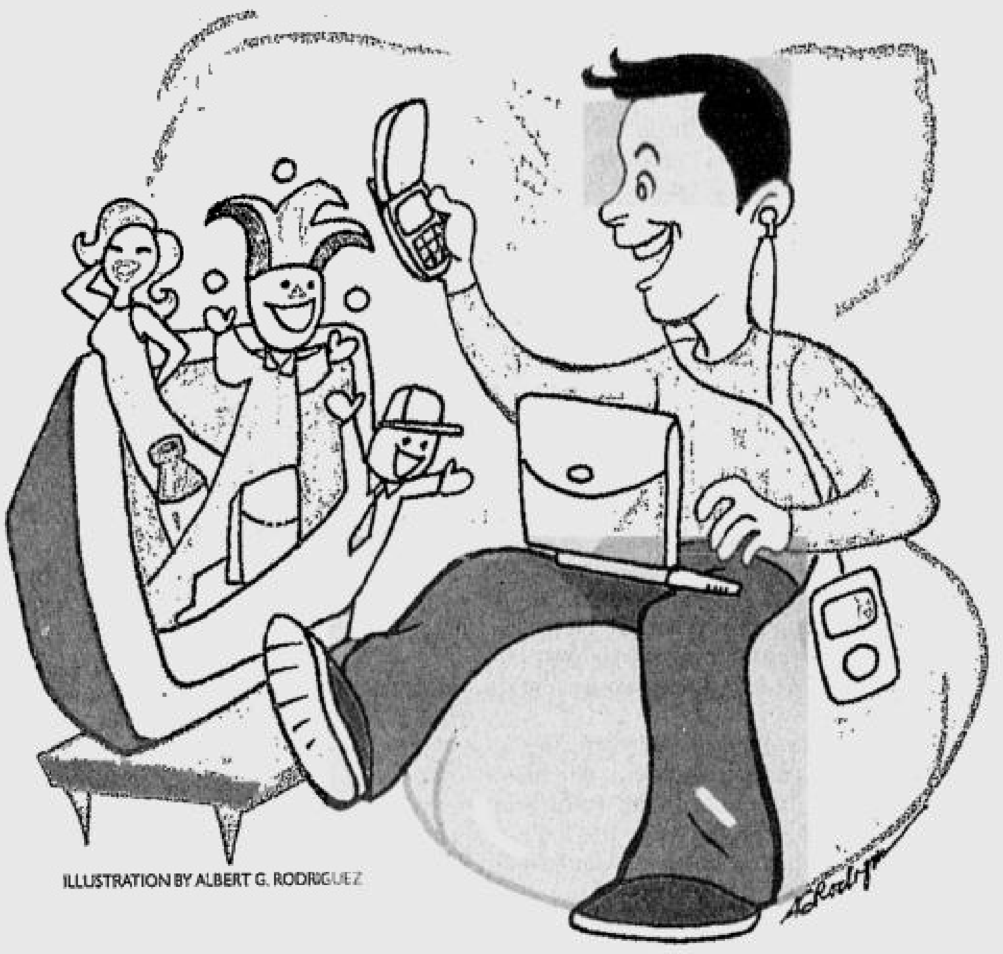


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

FUTURE OF AD AGENCIES

Consumers have never had more choice than now

By David Guerrero
Chair, BBDO Guerrero Ortega, Contributor

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOW more exposed than ever to far-reaching technological and economic changes affecting the world's marketing industry.

So here are what the leading figures in the world's advertising industry think 'the Advertising agency of the future' will be like. The interviews, carried in the UK's leading trade magazine "Campaign" are quoted here. They have much bearing on the kind of industry we will have in the near future.

The good news is that for this part of the world the fundamentals are strong. According to Sir Martin Sorrell, the chief executive of the giant WPP group, "Advertising will grow faster outside the US than inside. Half of the world's population is currently in Asia and it will be two-thirds by 2014."

Big idea agencies

He goes on to say that thanks to "the increasing need for brands to differentiate themselves through intangible characteristics, the underlying demand for (marketing) services can only strengthen."

The twist is that these services will no longer be limited to just advertising. Nor will traditional advertising even form the bulk of them. In fact according to Paul Bainsfair, the European president of TBWA, agencies should reposition themselves as 'big idea' agencies rather than advertising agencies. "What we do better than anyone is produce big ideas that transform businesses. Einstein said: 'imagination is more important than knowledge.' This will never change."

What does seem to be changing is that, as Ken Kaess of DDB worldwide puts it "creativity will apply equally to the imagination we use in selecting the vehicle (or, more appropriately, the mix of vehicles) to deliver the brand message, as it does to the content and style of the message."

According to him, agencies need to deliver not just ads but 'creative business solutions.' "To deliver these, agencies must apply creativity much earlier in the marketers business cycle. We can no longer be the communicators of the strategy, we must be the co-creators of the strategy working seamlessly with the client on business problems and opportunities."

One of the recurring themes of future watchers are changes in the way media is now consumed. At BBDO's recent worldwide network meeting, CEO Andrew Robertson showed us a picture of his teenage daughter sitting on a couch with the TV on, replying to an instant message on the computer and texting with her free hand while wearing an ipod. Try getting her to watch your commercial!

The job of reaching that consumer is a much different challenge to the one of sending messages out to a captive audience gathered obediently round a TV set. And in the US, marketers are already responding to it. One landmark was a campaign created by BBDO North America creative chief Dave Lubars at Fallon for BMW.

After discovering that 85 percent of car buyers used the web before buying a car, the client shifted its budget from TV and Print, making short films featuring the cars by famous directors (like Ang Lee, John Woo and Tony Scott) onto the Internet. The results have been phenomenally successful with over 14 million film views. According to the client "the Internet films are a better way to interact with prospective customers than traditional TV commercials."

What it all means according to Rory Sutherland of Ogilvy One Worldwide is that "With the consumer as king and master of their own media consumption, brand communications are left with three possible roles—court jester, courtesan or courtier." In other words "Be very entertaining, be very sexy, or be very, very useful. Otherwise be ignored."

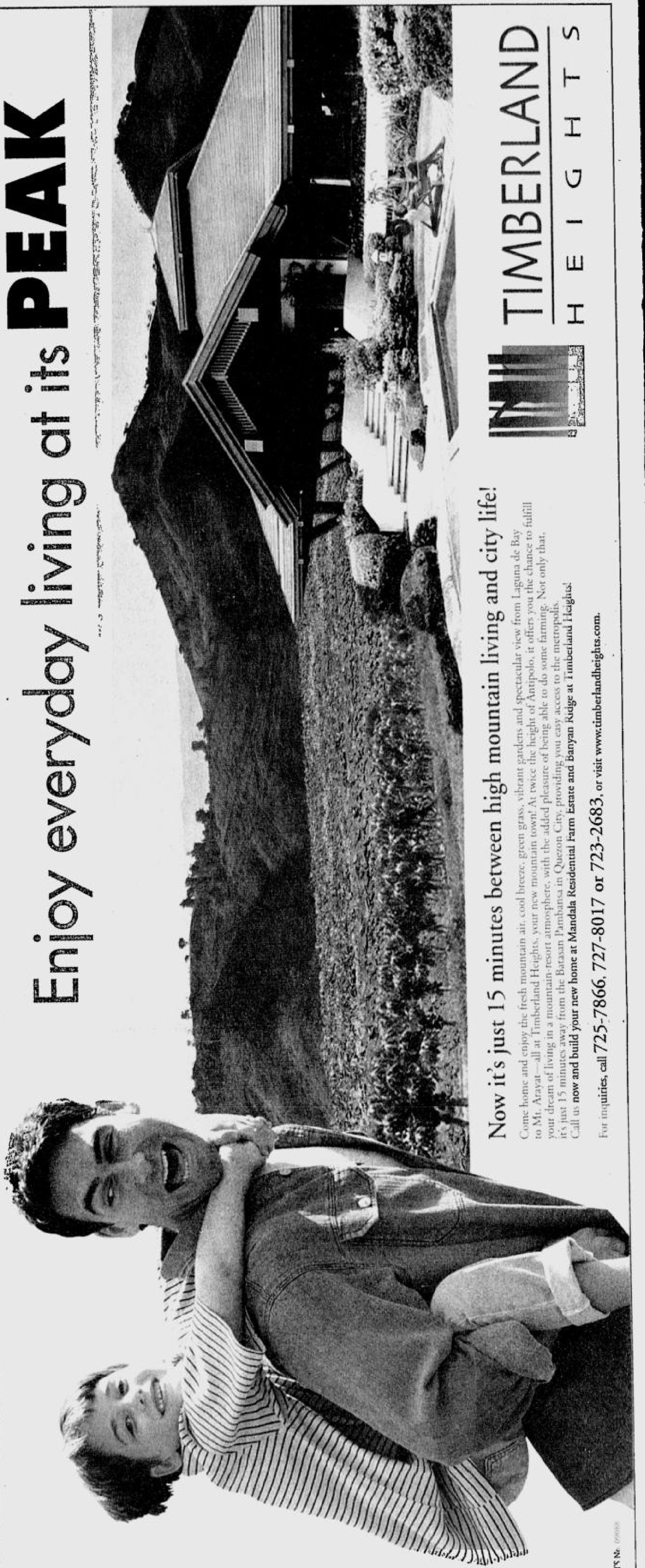
In our own market, with perhaps two dominant TV channels and three major newspapers, we face unique media issues of our own. For a start, there's the over 30 million cellular subscribers—and the unique interaction they have with their phones. Then there's the well-documented issue of media clutter: with easily 24 minutes of commercials and station "messages" in prime time.

Outdoor is no less congested—as a trip down Edsa will confirm. Radio is a great mass medium but many clients feel limited by its lack of a visual dimension. So bringing it to life is a great creative challenge for agencies. Magazines and interactive are still relatively niche media as far as the big marketers are concerned.

Here, as in any market, the issue is standing out in that clutter. Either this will come through creative that excites and attracts consumers but better still from media that does the same. The more the two can work together the more engaged the audience will be. And it is that engagement that will always be at the heart of our business.

As John Harlow from Media strategy company Naked Communications puts it: "Agencies match the needs and wants of consumers with the solutions and dreams of consumers." And "as a business that is there to help clients reach customers, shouldn't we understand consumers first?"

The fact is that whereas both clients and consumers both had limited choices in the past, in our future they will both have far broader ones. And it is up to agencies to recognize and adapt to that reality. We need to learn more about our consumers and we need to create attraction and empathy around our clients brands. And how well we do it will depend on how well we understand that our ultimate customers - the consumers - have never had more choice than now.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"Building Generation"
September 01

CEMEX Philippines Foundation signed a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Education for its Adopt-a-School program covering schools in Antipolo and Cebu. Photo shows foundation president Jaime Ruiz de Haro, DepEd's Teodoro Catindig, and Cemex VP Sergio Menendez.

Supreme Court looks beyond the VAT yoke

By Jose A. Osana and Jean G. Pantaleon
SGV & Co

TAX-FILES

(First of two parts)

ON SEPT. 1, 2005, THE SUPREME Court declared Republic Act No. 9337 (the new value-added tax [VAT] law) valid and constitutional. RA 9337 is projected to generate annually P64.3 billion additional revenues for the government.

Issues

In the five cases separately filed before the Supreme Court, petitioners claimed that RA 9337 is unconstitutional because of:

(1) Breach of constitutional procedures by the bicameral conference (Bicam) committee [a] No amendment rule after the third reading of bills. (Article VI, Section 26[2], Constitution).

Although Senate Bill No. 1950 and House Bill Nos. 3555 and 3705 had already been passed on third reading, the Bicam committee still deleted from said bills the "no pass-on" provisions, and inserted the 70-percent cap on input tax credit and the President's standby authority to increase the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent.

[b] Revenue bills to originate exclusively in the House of Representatives. (Article VI, Section 24, Constitution).

The Bicam committee adopted certain tax measures in SB 1950 that are not found in the House bills.

(2) Breach of substantive rights and duties: The provisions in RA 9337 pertaining to the President's standby authority to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent, the 70-percent cap on input tax credit, and the 5-percent creditable VAT withholding on government transactions allegedly contravened the following constitutional policies:

[a] Uniform, equitable and evolving progressive taxation (Article VI, Section 28 [1], Constitution);

[b] Non-delegation of legislative power (Article VI, Section 28 [2], Constitution), with regard to the President's standby authority to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent; and

[c] Due process and equal protection clauses (Article III, Section 1, Constitution).

SC ruling

The Supreme Court dismissed the petitions and upheld the constitutionality of RA 9337, based on the following:

On the procedural issues

(1) The Bicam committee followed the Constitution and Congress' internal rules.

First, the Supreme Court noted that Article VI, Section 16(3) of the Constitution recognizes that Congress has the intrinsic power to "determine the rules of its proceedings." Pursuant to the doctrine of separation of powers, the Supreme Court is wont to deny a review of the internal proceedings of a co-equal body. Congress is the best judge of how it should conduct its own business expeditiously and in an orderly manner.

Second, under the enrolled bill doctrine, the signatures of the Speaker of the House and the Senate President on the bill, and the certification by the secretaries of both Houses of Congress that such bill was passed, are conclusive of its due enactment.

Third, the Supreme Court explained that the "No Amendment Rule" under Article VI, Section 26(2) of the Constitution refers only to the procedure to be followed by each House with regard to bills initiated in each of the Houses, before said bill is transmitted to the other House for concurrence or amendment.

Fourth, the creation of a Bicam committee is a legislative practice sanctioned by the rules of both the Senate (Rule XII, Section 35) and the House of Representatives (Rule XIV, Sections 88 and 89). Apparently, this addresses the absence of constitutional procedure to be followed in cases where the two Houses of Congress find themselves in disagreement over changes introduced by the other House in a legislative bill. Hence, if a change is desired in the practice of the Bicam committee, it must be sought in Congress since this question is not covered by any constitutional provision but is only an internal rule of each House.

Fifth, the Bicam committee only introduced changes that were germane to subjects of the provisions referred to it for reconciliation, thus:

[a] VAT rate (House bills' 12 percent vs Senate bill's 10 percent)—The Bicam committee struck a compromise by retaining the 10 percent VAT and inserting the President's standby authority to increase the VAT rate to 12 percent beginning Jan. 1, 2006, upon the finance secretary's recommendation, provided that, either the VAT collection as a percentage of the previous year's gross domestic product (GDP) exceeds 2.8 percent, or the national government deficit as a percentage of the previous year's GDP exceeds 1.5 percent.

[b] No pass-on provision—(HB 3705 prohibited the passing on of the VAT both on the sale of petroleum products and power generation; SB 1950 limited the No-pass-on provision to the latter; while HB 3555 had no such provision)—The Bicam committee deleted the "no pass-on" provisions in their entirety, because VAT, being an indirect tax, is essentially a pass-on-to-consumers tax.

[c] Cap on input tax credit—(HB 3705 had none; HB 3555 proposed that input tax credit for capital goods be distributed over five years, 5 percent cap for other goods, and 11 percent for retail goods; while SB 1950 proposed a 90 percent cap on input tax credit for goods and services other than capital goods)—The Bicam committee adopted the rationale of HB 3555 but limited the input tax credit to 70 percent of the output tax.

[d] Other taxes—(SB 1950 amended the Tax Code provisions on corporate income, percentage, franchise and excise taxes; the House bills did not)—The Bicam committee adopted the SB 1950 provisions but with amendments on the rate of the taxes to be imposed.

The Supreme Court explained that Article VI, Section 24 of the Constitution requires that the revenue bill—not the law itself—should originate exclusively in the House of Representatives. This has been complied with by the introduction of HB 3555 and 3705. A bill originating in the House may undergo changes in the Senate that may result in a rewriting of the whole and for which a distinct bill may be produced.

The Senate has the power not only to concur with amendments and propose amendments, but it can also propose its own version, even with respect to bills which are required by the Constitution to originate in the House.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court held that the Senate acted within its power to amend House bills when it included the SB 1950 provisions amending corporate income taxes, percentage, excise and franchise taxes.

These Senate proposals are in furtherance of the legislative intent of HB 1468 (to bring in sizeable revenues), which was later substituted by HB 3555.

(Part two will discuss the court rulings on the substantive issues.)

Communicating in regulated industries: a challenging job

WHAT DO water service, electric power distribution and tollway operations have in common? They are what are commonly called "regulated" companies.

And what does it mean when we say they are "regulated"? Answer: Their rates, operations and maintenance, and investment plans are first approved by a regulatory body before they can be even implemented.

There are actually more industries that are categorized as regulated—railways, telecommunications, telephony, bus and taxi companies—those that have virtual or pure monopoly by virtue of the nature of their service or of their franchise area.

Huge capital. All these industries share another thing in common: they are in a business area which requires huge capital and which demands specialized technical expertise. And they deliver the most basic of services which are supposed to be the responsibility of government.

The worldwide trend, though, is that governments are perennially short of funds, and so these governments invite private firms or a consortium of business groups to come in where they fear (or fail) to tread.

Basis services. Three industries featured in this article are delivering basic commodities or service—water, electric power and toll ways—and are thus regulated. "They fall under one category—public utility," says lawyer Romulo S. Quimbo, vice president for legal and regulatory affairs of the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), concessionaire of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX).

"We sell the most basic of human need—water," points out Miguel Navarette, senior group director of Manila Water Corp., "giving our business an inherently social value."

"Investing in electric power distribution requires huge capital, and the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) was invited by the government to deliver such essential service to electricity users, with a promise of a reasonable return," says a former senior executive of the firm.

Regulation and monopoly. Regulation presupposes a measure of monopoly, says regulatory expert Quimbo. Tollways are supervised by the Toll Regulatory Board, water service by MWSS Regulatory Office, and electric power by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

"Tollways are not pure monopoly, though," Quimbo adds, because motorists have a choice to use alternate routes."

It is not so with Meralco, because one cannot ask two electric utility firms or water service contractors to install cables or pipes in one's home. The monopoly is location-specific, he explains.

Regulator-regulated firm dynamic. So, what is the dynamic between the regulator and the "regulated?" The regulator makes sure the utility firm delivers quality service it has promised, otherwise such a firm will receive sanctions—in the form of penalties, reversal of decisions or, worse, non-renewal of contract or franchise.

Does it mean then that the job of communicator or public relations executive in a regulated firm different at best or difficult or nerve-wracking at worst?

Since the regulator remains the guardian on behalf of the consumer, his or her complaints about bad service or exorbitant rates are "heard" by the regulatory body. This happens when the formula for arriving at utility rates are not explained well, are confusing, or inconsistent. This also happens when concerns on poor quality service are not promptly acted on.

Public information. "We made sure, even before we opened the NLEX, that motorists understand the whys and wherefores of our toll rates," explains Marlene Ochoa, MNTC vice president for public relations. "Of course, we also communicated the savings they will realize when they will use a modern roadway," she adds.

Quimbo volunteers that the "tariff formula" for each industry is different. Meralco's tariff formula is based on RORB (return on rate base). MNTC is governed by the toll rate adjustment parametric formula. Manila Water has a discount rate.

These formulae are actually very technical in nature, "and it is very important for any public relations executive or communicator to master every element of such formulae so that they can convincingly explain it to service users," says a former Meralco executive.

There is a continuing need to "educate" the regulator, according to Navarette—not in the sense of lecturing, but in the sense that they have a policy of "showing them what we are doing," he says.

Costs of dispute. This is more crucial than is commonly considered. A "dispute" between the regulator and the regulated firm will prompt a "challenge" from the regulator, which may even bring the case to court. When the court decides against the regulated firm, that firm might lose even billions of pesos. Specific instances are still fresh in the collective memory of the Philippine business community.

An electric utility firm was asked to refund billions of pesos when the Supreme Court reversed in 2004 a jurisprudence (established as early as 1936) allowing income tax as part of the firm's operating expense. In effect, it reduced the firm's RORB to 8 percent—not the allowed 12 percent.

Another regulatory issue is the case of another water company, given a service area with poor quality pipes, which incurred millions of losses. The regulator and the regulated firm did not see eye-to-eye on their interpretation of the contract, resulting in a standoff—with the undesirable outcome of the firm getting out of the water business.

Joel Lacsama, corporate communications director of Manila Water, says communication initiatives must be sustained between his firm and its shareholders and stakeholders. Navarette reveals that the response time of Manila Water to specific concerns are fast because of their decentralized set-up—made up of business areas and territories.

Good neighbor. Being a good neighbor to the communities near their operations or which they serve brings dividends in terms of building customer loyalty. Such loyalty assures the firm of a climate of less complaints and more positive feedback. In such a case, the regulator will not be bothered with negative reports and protests.

A regulated firm is invariably faced with what MNTC president Jose P. de Jesus termed in a speech before the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) as "political risks." Such risks emerge when a local or national legislature initiates hearings of complaints, or when nongovernment organizations stage rallies against utility rates—or even when vested groups set into motion a campaign to oppose the firm's expansion programs.

Face to face with such risky scenarios, public utility communicators are continually honing their skills in issues management, alliance building, advocacy efforts and one-on-one interface with various decision-makers.

CEO: Chief communicator? Is the job of a communicator in a regulated firm difficult? Yes. But, it is also challenging, since it requires him or her to use a multi-disciplinary approach to every problem or opportunity. This seems to prove what the national association of public relations professionals are saying that the professions "has come of age"—because it has become a "strategic function" in management.

Aside from communications experts, is it essential that no less than the firm's top executive realize—and thus harness—the art and science of public relations straddling many disciplines.

A CEO forum in the forthcoming 12th National Public Relations Congress, slated Sept. 22-23, may provide insightful answers.

The forum features top executives Jose P. de Jesus of MNTC, Jesus Francisco of Meralco and Miguel Navarette of Manila Water who will explore with congress participants the many ramifications of the communication function helping regulated companies fulfill their public service mandate.

Over the long haul, they can continue providing essential service to their captive or not-so-captive customers.

Online game aims to make girls play

AN ONLINE GAME WITH GIRL APPEAL?

That's what Philippine ROSE Online, or simply pROSE, is proving to be, what with lots of fashionable and business-savvy characters milling around in a beautiful environment, just as in real life.

Introduced last June by Level Up!, the first online game publisher for the Philippines, pROSE has attracted so far some 10,000 females and previous non-players—including boys—making it today's fastest-growing multi-player online game, second only to Ragnarok, according to Level-Up!

The company plans to formally launch the game this month with a series of events.

pROSE's story-line reads like a fairy tale, embellished with innovative features. Perhaps that is what, among other things, has captured the imagination of girls of all ages, who, by becoming protagonists, make the story their own.

Here's how the story goes: Once upon a time, there was a great and benevolent goddess named Arua, who decided to end the vast darkness and emptiness of the universe by creating seven new light-and-life-filled planets. But Hebarn, god of malice, decides to forcibly take over the seventh planet, threatening the harmony of the other six planets. To fight Hebarn, Arua creates the Visitors, whom she sends out to counteract Hebarn's minions.

It is the virtual adventures of the Visitors, mirroring the real world, which affect the planets' environments and economic systems. In fact, the victorious Visitor becomes head of their planet of origin, Junon, and go on to conquer other planets and defeat Hebarn. But that's many mouse clicks away!

Says avid game player, game master and pROSE community manager Ching Merano of Level Up!, "Unlike in other role-playing games where only major markings differentiate the characters from one another, pROSE characters have a wide range of clothes, weapons and accessories to choose from."

APART from everyday rags, characters in pROSE have clothes unique to their job class.

Apart from common everyday rags, characters have clothes unique to their job class and also guild uniforms. What undoubtedly adds to feminine enjoyment is the wide variety of clothes, hats, shoes, bags and accessories to choose from. Which, thanks to the game's advanced graphics, are clearly visible for everyone to admire.

The market forces in Junon even behave the same as in the real world. It has its own currency, the zulie; the law of supply and demand applies; and getting the right clothes and accessories require financial ingenuity and dedication. Just like in real life.

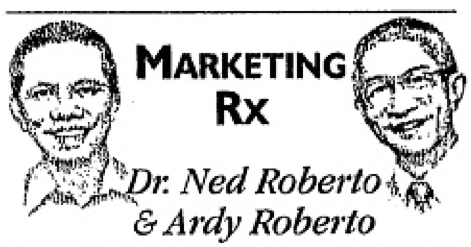
Explains Merano, "Players buy most of their stuff from Dealers, who are the merchants of Junon and who make and sell everything from weapons to clothes. Players can also sell items if they want. There's an auto-pricing system in place, controlled by market forces. Window-shopping is encouraged and garage sales are also common."

Another big plus, one finds out, is that pROSE is not intimidating to those not familiar with online gaming. It has a welcoming environment and it allows new players space to familiarize and get the skills needed to play before they venture out into more challenging arenas. And it's a lusciously beautiful space, with rich colors and imaginative creatures of all shapes and sizes.

Everyone starts on the same footing, as a newbie Visitor, without any memories of their identity or their purpose—adventurers filled with unlimited potential. The goal is to discover your heritage as a Visitor and help shape the destiny of the planets. Your journey depends on your own choices and you can be involved in the main story or create your own tale. Choices and actions will spell the difference for the player and the world she—or he—is helping to build. Again, just as in real life.

ROSE Online was developed by Triggersoft, published by Gravity and brought to Pinoy players—Pinays, particularly—by Level Up! Find it at http.//www.roseonline.ph.

Branding, battling the 'ukay-ukay' and other questions



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WE'RE A BRANDED RETAIL STORE. OUR industry is more competitive than any other. It uses celebrity models, billboards and each one copies each other's look and style. And there's low brand loyalty. Women shoppers specially buy anywhere including "tiangges," bazaars, over-runs, cheap Bangkok imports... even "*ukay-ukay*." How can a branded retailer compete and still win?

A: Are you losing money? If you are losing money then you're most probably losing your customer segment. And that's when you're in trouble. But if you're still making money, then your concern should be to correctly diagnose your "women shopper" segment and the unbranded retailer "competitors" you cited. The quotation marks in the word "competitors" is intentional because you should consider them as competitors in the market segment where you belong.

Your shopper segment. You're in an industry category (what you called "branded retailing") where its customer is, in one sense, the marketer's "ideal." It's a customer who participates in more than one, if not all, of the industry categories. That woman shopper you wrongly regard as brand disloyal shops and buys in a "tiangge" in one shopping occasion like buying a cheap but quality-looking imitation of a Ferragamo bag. In another shopping occasion, she'll go to an "ukay-ukay" store to buy, for example, clothes for her housemaids or driver. In yet another occasion, she'll buy over-runs for her children's everyday or sports playing wear. But when she wants to buy a branded shirt, bag or pair of shoes, she'll go to your store or another branded retail store.

If you correctly diagnose your market via this segmentation concept and customer multi-patronage shopping behavior, you'll come to the more logical conclusion that if you want your customer's shopping money in those other occasions, then you have to have a retail outlet specifically tailored to each of those shopping occasions. Have a tiangge-like store if you want your customer's tiangge shopping money. Have an ukay-ukay-like store if you want your customer's ukay-ukay shopping money, and so on.

Of course, if you don't want to do this, then stay in the shopper segment where you are, and as long as you're satisfying your segment customer's priority shopping values better than other branded retailers-and making money doing it-then don't worry, be happy.

Product vs. corporate brand

Q: When is it beneficial to promote product brand vis-a-vis a corporate brand?

A: In an industry where products are known and bought by their product brand more than their corporate brand, then market by product branding. This is the case with most fast moving consumer products like, for example, Sunsilk. It is more known than its manufacturer Unilever.

But if you are in an industry where products are known and bought by their corporate brand more than their product brand, then it follows that you should market by corporate branding. This is the case with most pharma prescription products like, for example, the prescription products of Pfizer or Novartis. Pfizer is more known than its prescription product brands and those product brands are prescribed and bought more because of the Pfizer name than their product brand names.

In both cases, there are of course exceptions and that's why we said "most" and not "all." For example, in the prescription market, "Ventolin" (an anti-asthma product brand) is more known to consumers than its maker, Glaxo. In the consumer market, "Johnson & Johnson" (a corporate brand) is more known than its product brand, for example, "Pure Essentials." But these are exceptions.

There are two other branding situations where you can ask your question. The first is when you're introducing a new brand into the market. In a previous column, we said that you need both product branding and corporate branding because each has an important marketing function to perform. It's worth repeating here that in introducing a new brand, you have to make two product-branding decisions: "core branding" and "sub-branding."

Your core branding is for differentiating the brand from all other brands in the category. Your sub-branding is for positioning the branded new product in a priority consumer value that it is satisfying better than other brands. Then you have the third tier branding and that's "mark branding." That's the corporate brand and it's for "legitimizing" the product brand in terms of the corporate reputation of its maker.

The idea of a 3-tier branding is to get the new brand, in the face of intensifying competition and shortening product life cycle, immediately accepted because it's different (the core branding function), it's promising something needed and unique (the sub-branding function), and it's coming from no ordinary Juan Dela Cruz but from a well-known, reputable company (the mark branding function).

The other situation is when you are into a corporate image campaign. Here, it's understandable that you're into corporate branding much more than product branding. But you have to still go beyond a 1-tier branding and into a 2-tier branding. You have to have a core corporate branding as in, for example, HSBC, and then you have to have a corporate sub-branding as in, "The World's Local Bank" for HSBC. The core branding is still for differentiating your company from others while the sub-branding is for corporate positioning or reputation building.

Competition in printing

Q: In the printing and service industry, competition nowadays has become very intense and difficult. Most customers go to low-price suppliers who are even new in the industry and who just want a share of the market. What's the best way to handle this situation?

A: Your solution is in your estimate of "most" customers. That's the price sensitive market segment. It's a segment and therefore not all the customers in the market.

Get a more accurate estimate of that market segment that's beyond the subjective inaccurate "metric" of "most."

Estimate the segment market size.

The market size (which we have repeatedly emphasized in previous columns) is not equal to the segment population size but equals [(segment population size) x (usage frequency) x (price paid per usage)].

This means that if you are in the premium segment where customers are less price sensitive, your small segment population will still give you a larger segment market size if your two multipliers of "usage frequency" and "price paid" are a multiple of their counterparts in the economy or price segment.

This is the mindset that you should have if you want to stay in the premium segment where you are and where your customers stay and keep coming back to you because of your value added. But if you want to also compete and participate in the economy or price segment, then you have to get in there with a "fighting" or "flunking" brand or variant that is tailored to the priority values of the price customers, namely, cheap but of a minimum quality.

We gave the example of Tang before. When low-cost imitation powdered orange drinks were being introduced, Tang was tempted to lower its prices. Instead, wiser heads prevailed and a fighting brand was introduced: Kool Aid.

When you decide to do this, you must be prepared for another mindset change. In the premium segment, you're profitable because of the high margin that marketing in this segment offers even though volume is small. In other words, high margin times small volume still equals large total profit. But in the economy or price segment, the profit situation is completely different. It's a market of small and sometimes especially in retail service marketing, very small margins. But volume is or can be very large and is in fact huge. So low margin times large volume equals as large if not larger total profit versus the premium segment.

The change in mindset is from a high-margin focus into a large-volume focus with its concomitant new ways of marketing and selling.

Basically, when you decide to also participate in the price segment, it's a question of "Are you ready for this change in mindset of doing business?"

Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

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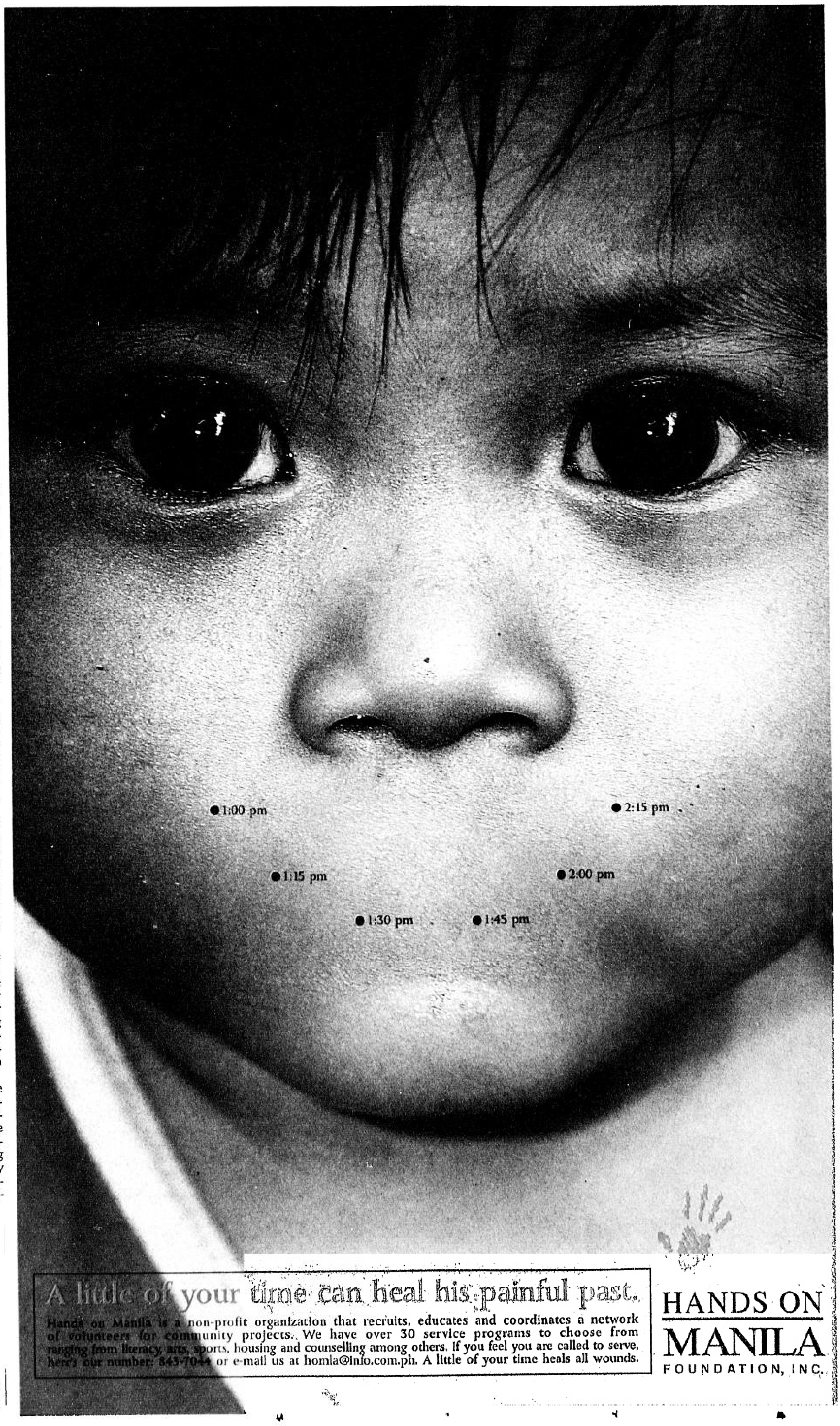

A little of your time can heal his painful past.

Hands on Manila is a non-profit organization that recruits, educates and coordinates a network of volunteers for community projects. We have over 30 service programs to choose from ranging from literacy, arts, sports, housing and counselling among others. If you feel you are called to serve, here's our number: 843-7044 or e-mail us at homla@info.com.ph. A little of your time heals all wounds.

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A worry-free and hassle-free ride

By Raquel P. Gomez
PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Companies should take a good look at long term auto leasing as a means to cut costs and also for them to abide by the new international accounting standard

VICTOR Martinez, president, ORIX Auto Leasing

THE PURCHASING MANAGER OF A PHARMACEUTICAL company says time and delivery are essential to the day-to-day conduct of the company that sells and distributes vaccines and medicines throughout the country.

To be competitive in the field, the company's sales force needs roadworthy vehicles it can rely upon any time of the day. The company found that reliability on the road when it leased 22 new cars from ORIX Auto Leasing Philippines Corp.

The leased new cars are deployed currently to the company's field men in the Visayas and Mindanao areas. Though a new way of doing things for this company used to purchasing and maintaining vehicles for its salespeople, auto leasing has given the company savings and peace of mind.

WORRY-FREE/ B2-5

Metrobank Group launches auto leasing subsidiary

IN A BID TO INTENSIFY AUTO LEASING BUSINESS in the country, the Metrobank Group of Companies launches ORIX Auto Leasing Philippines Corporation today.

ORIX Auto Leasing is a new and dynamic company equipped with the financial backing of Metrobank through its financial arm ORIX Metro Leasing and Finance Corporation, its joint venture with ORIX Corporation, the largest non-bank financial institution in Japan.

Currently maintaining a total of 557 cars on lease, ORIX officials say the company is ready and very capable to provide the fleet of cars for long term leases to the corporate world.

ORIX Auto Leasing is the only leasing company in the country that can provide any quantity and make of vehicles with full maintenance. This is made possible through its fully equipped repair and maintenance facilities housed in a plant in Paco Manila staffed with experienced and well-trained service personnel.

ORIX Auto Leasing is fully prepared to offer full maintenance nationwide with its tie ups with car dealers and accredited repair shops with world-class facilities. ORIX Auto Leasing operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is ready to attend to emergency situations encountered by its customers at a moment's notice.

Aside from long-term and short-term operating leases with or without drivers, ORIX Auto Leasing is also offering airport transfers on an hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly basis. ORIX Auto Leasing is currently the exclusive transport provider of various hotels such as Century Park Hotel, CFO Suites, City Garden Hotel, Dusit Hotel Manila, Mandarin Hotel, Manila Diamond Hotel, New World Hotel, Oxford Suites, and Pan Pacific Manila.

ORIX Auto Leasing is also Philippine Airlines' choice leasing company for its first class passengers' transfers to and from the airport, as well as for its "Palakbayan" and "Swingaround" tour packages.

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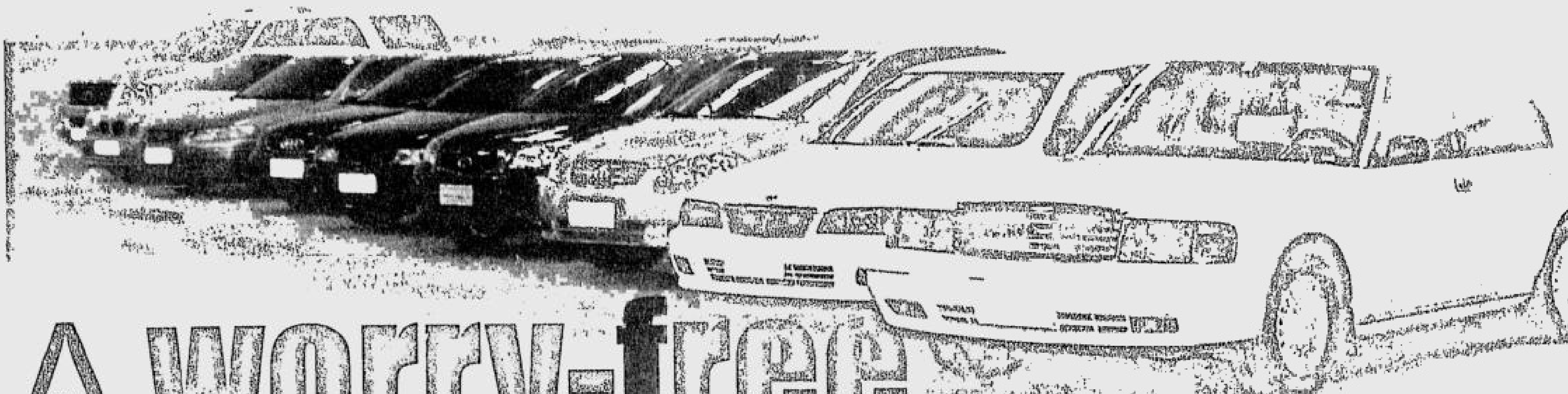

A worry-free and hassle-free ride

By Raquel P. Gomez

PHOTOS BY R[illegible]

Companies should take a good look at long term auto leasing as a means to cut costs and also for them to abide by the new international accounting standard

VICTOR [illegible]
President, ORIX Auto Leasing

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A worry-free and hassle-free ride

From page B2-4

Car maintenance, repairs and even car replacement come with ORIX Worry-free Car Fleet Lease. The company no longer maintains a motorpool, a mechanic and a budget for spare parts.

"In long term auto leasing, there is less headache and more peace of mind," says the purchasing manager. "The cars are new and are always maintained in top condition. And if one of them really breaks down, it just takes one phone call and ORIX repair crews are there to pick up the car and fix or replace it."

He adds the sales people are more than happy with the new cars. "When they do their job, they're in high spirits since their cars are new and in top shape always."

ORIX Auto Leasing is currently keen on servicing pharmaceutical and multinational companies, a business segment that has huge demand for vehicles for its salesforce. The company, under the old name, has been in existence for 16 years.

With the formal launching of the company under the new name, company officials say the company is ready and very capable to provide the fleet of cars for long term leases to the corporate world.

As subsidiary of ORIX METRO Leasing and Finance Corporation, ORIX Auto Leasing is backed by the country's number one bank Metrobank and ORIX Corporation, the largest nonbank financial institution in Japan.

Currently, ORIX-Philippines has more than 500 cars on lease, majority of them hotel taxis or limousines for top hotels in Manila. With the establishment of a fully-equipped car maintenance facility covering more than 2,500 square meters in Paco, Manila, ORIX plans to double the number of its long-term leases in a year's period.

EDUARDO Alvarez, chair, ORIX Auto Leasing

Victor Martinez, president of ORIX Auto Leasing, says companies should take a good look at long term auto leasing as a means to cut costs and also for them to abide by the new international accounting standard.

Martinez is referring to International Accounting Standard 17 (IAS 17) that mandates companies to go into operating leases and avail themselves of the benefits under IAS 17. For example, companies which entered into auto leasing with ORIX can claim the lease payments as pure expenses since the risks in the use of the vehicles remain with ORIX.

Martinez says with long-term auto leasing, a company can focus its resources on its core businesses and prevent deployment of capital to non-core business.

"The trend worldwide is for a company to stick to core business. It should outsource everything that is not within the core business," adds Eduardo Alvarez, chairman of the board of ORIX Auto Leasing.

Alvarez says long-term auto leasing is already an established business trend abroad. Japan has 540,000 vehicles on long-term lease, Australia with 25,000 and New Zealand with 9,400. In Asia, Thailand has 4,200 vehicles, Taiwan with 1,600, South Korea with 1,300.

"For example, pharmaceutical companies need cars for their sales people. But they have to maintain a fleet of cars. They need dispatchers; they need somebody to monitor the car insurance, registration, and repair. All these things could be done if they outsource everything to us."

With auto leasing, the long term effect on the company is savings, adds Alvarez. "There's savings on the part of the company as far as car maintenance, because we offer full car maintenance service on top of the lease. The maintenance cost is spread over the lease period. And companies can strictly follow their budget," says Alvarez.

Martinez says companies have already been inquiring about long-term auto leasing. He says clients are assured of ORIX's honest-to-goodness deals, deals that will make clients more than happy.

"Our commitment to clients is total service satisfaction. We've been in this business for many years and we serve the most discriminating guests in the hotel business. We follow their standard so we will apply this same standard in the corporate world."

'Our commitment to clients is total service satisfaction. We've been in this business for many years and we serve the most discriminating guests in the hotel business. We follow their standard so we will apply this same standard in the corporate world.'

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Guess who's ready? The Butler, Of Course

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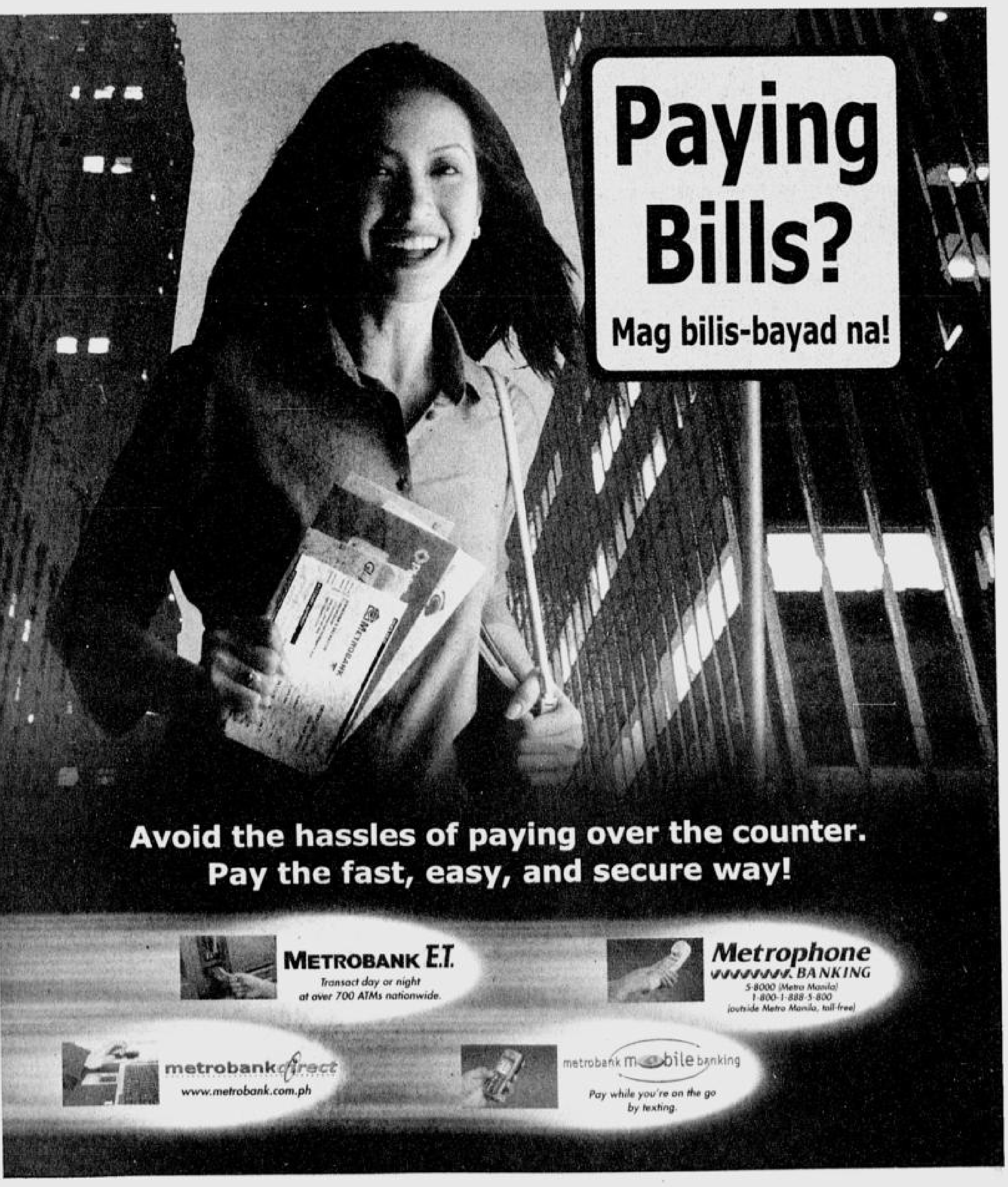
Manila

[illegible]

global hotel alliance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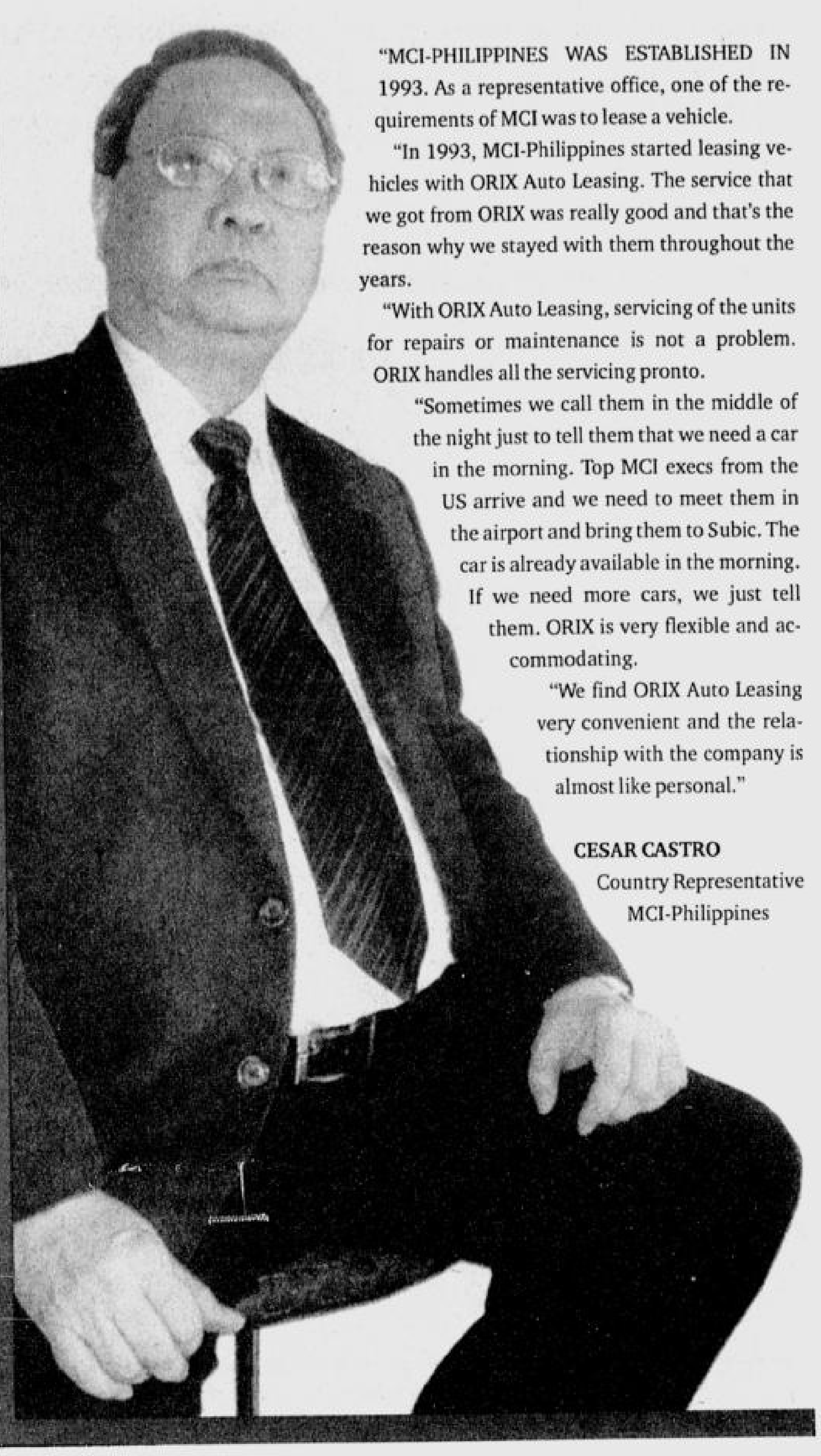
'Almost like a personal relationship'



"MCI-PHILIPPINES WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1993. As a representative office, one of the requirements of MCI was to lease a vehicle.

"In 1993, MCI-Philippines started leasing vehicles with ORIX Auto Leasing. The service that we got from ORIX was really good and that's the reason why we stayed with them throughout the years.

"With ORIX Auto Leasing, servicing of the units for repairs or maintenance is not a problem. ORIX handles all the servicing pronto.

"Sometimes we call them in the middle of the night just to tell them that we need a car in the morning. Top MCI execs from the US arrive and we need to meet them in the airport and bring them to Subic. The car is already available in the morning. If we need more cars, we just tell them. ORIX is very flexible and accommodating.

"We find ORIX Auto Leasing very convenient and the relationship with the company is almost like personal."

CESAR CASTRO
Country Representative
MCI-Philippines

> 'Sometimes we call them in the middle of the night just to tell them that we need a car in the morning. Top MCI execs from the US arrive and we need to meet them in the airport and bring them to Subic. The car is already available in the morning. If we need more cars, we just tell them. ORIX is very flexible and accommodating.'

our challenge,
our commitment
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First Metro Investment Corporation

These prestigious awards from Finance Asia in their 2005 Country Awards for Achievement come to us as both a challenge and a commitment.

They are a **challenge** for us at First Metro Investment to pursue, with even more vigour, our vision of prime moving the development of capital markets.

They also constitute a **commitment:**

- to our valued clients, corporate or government, whom we wish to serve even better than in the past.
- to our investing public, who may expect more innovative financial instruments from us, and
- to the country, as we raise funds for the economy's growing needs – for infrastructure, for housing, or for industry.

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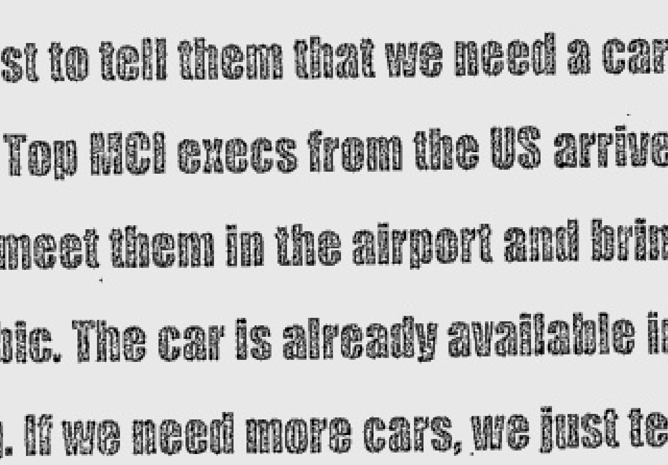

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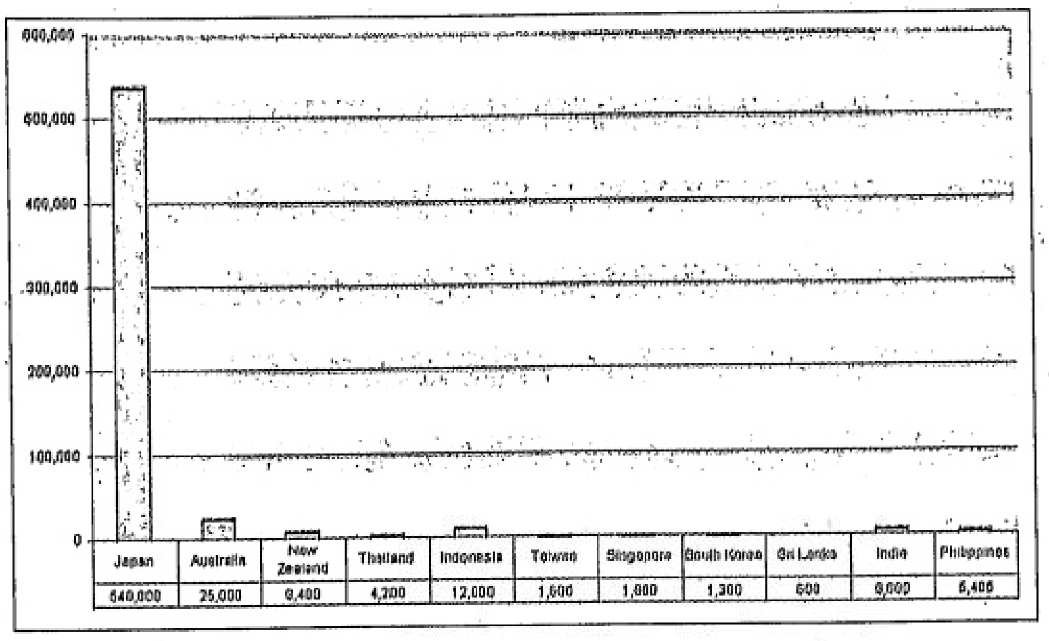
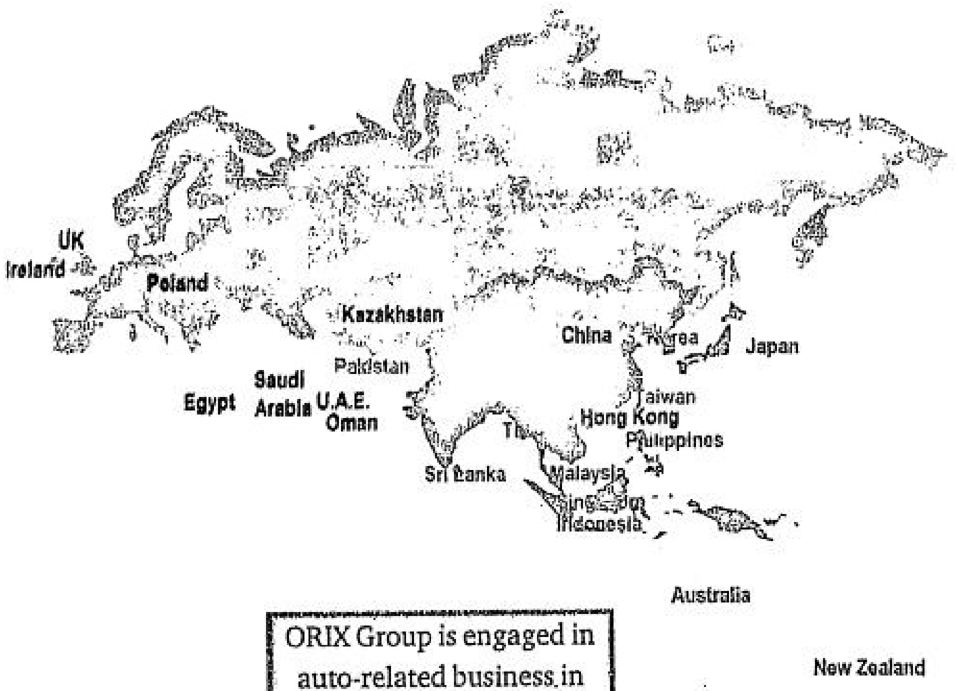
Auto Leasing in other countries



Japan	Australia	New Zealand	Thailand	Indonesia	Taiwan	Singapore	South Korea	Sri Lanka	India	Philippines
640,000	25,000	9,400	4,200	12,000	1,600	1,800	1,300	600	8,000	6,400

ORIX: The world over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Singapore
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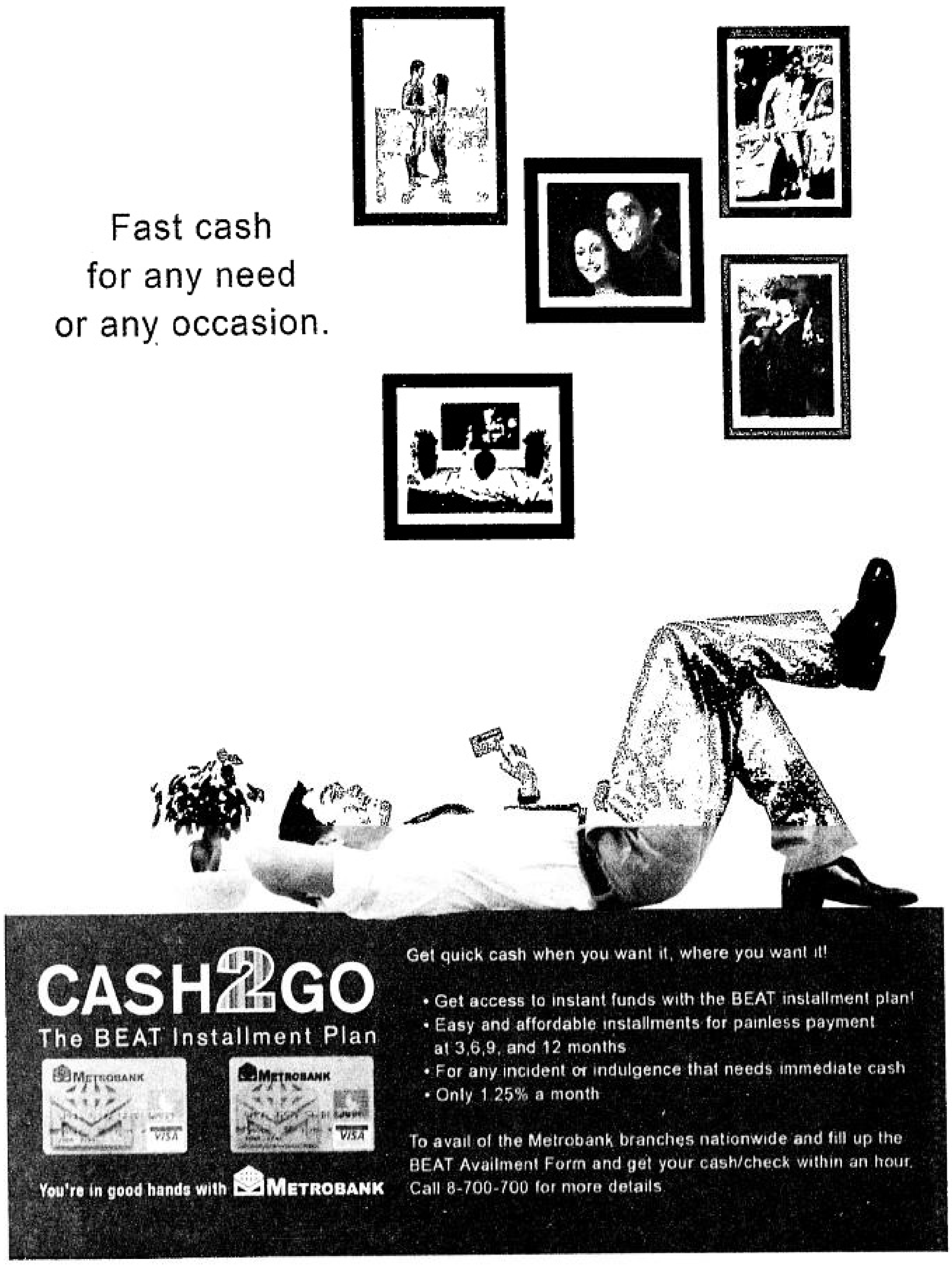
ORIX Group is engaged in auto-related business in countries marked in RED

Offering Financial Services to 24 Overseas Markets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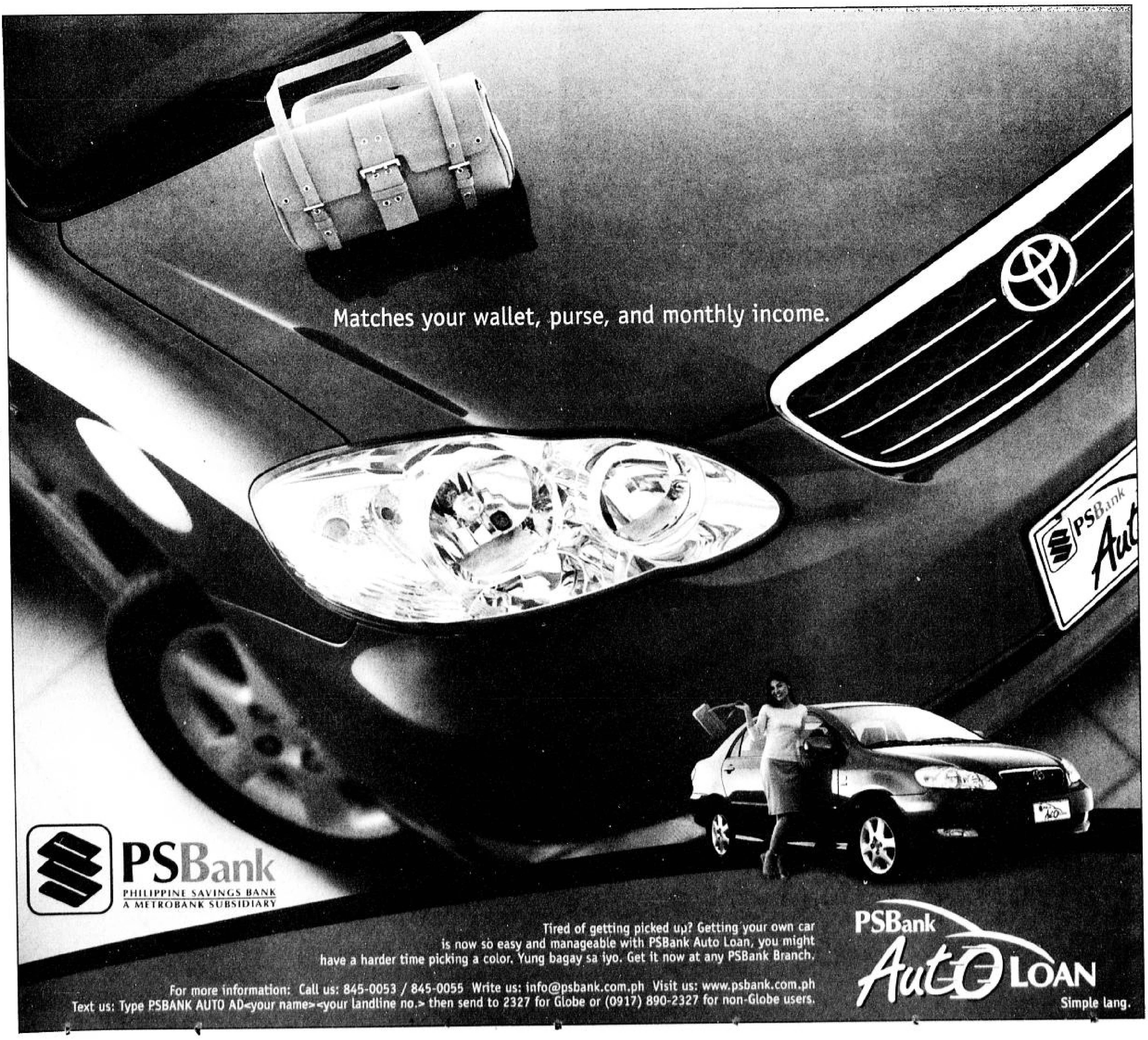
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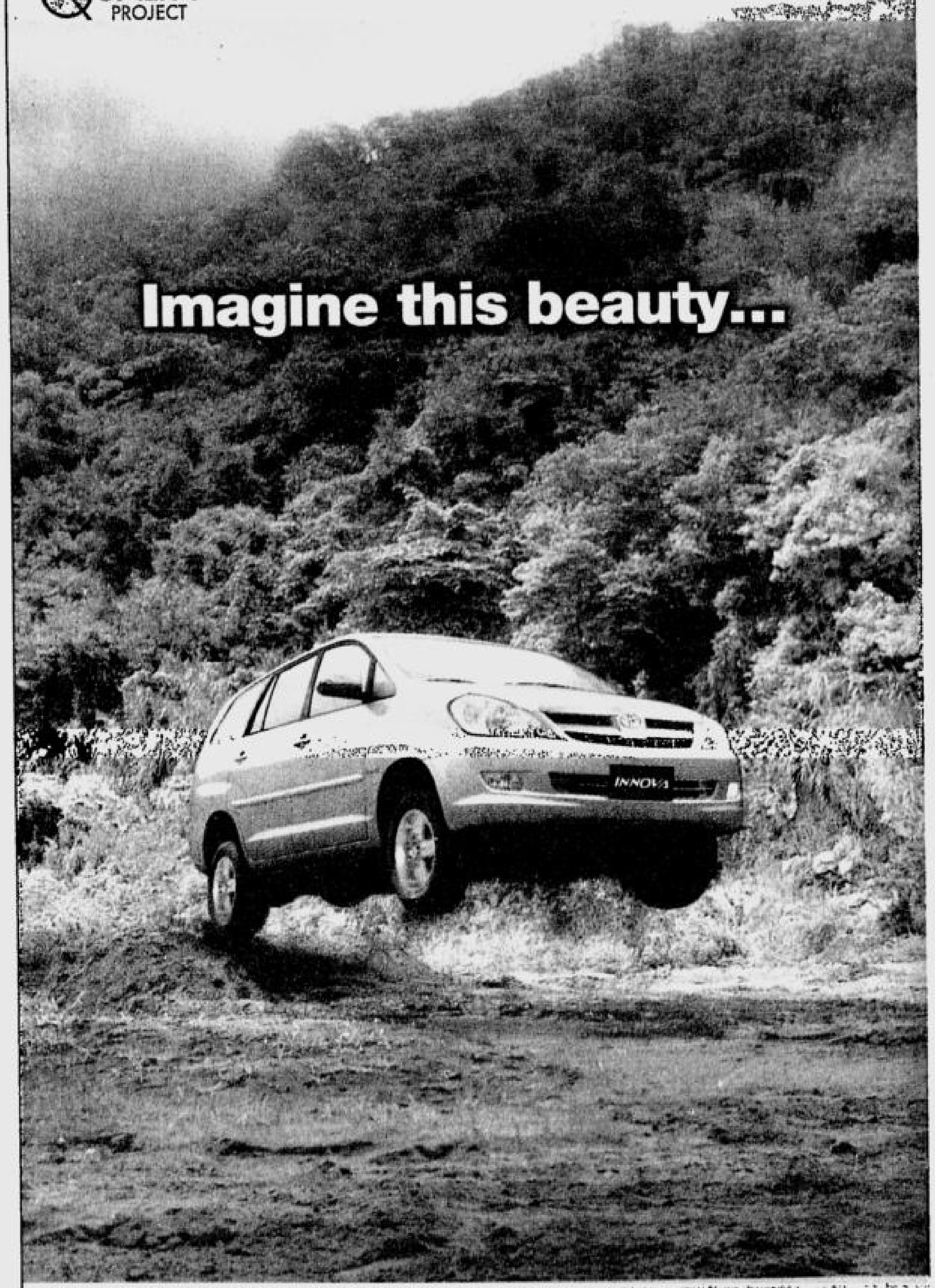
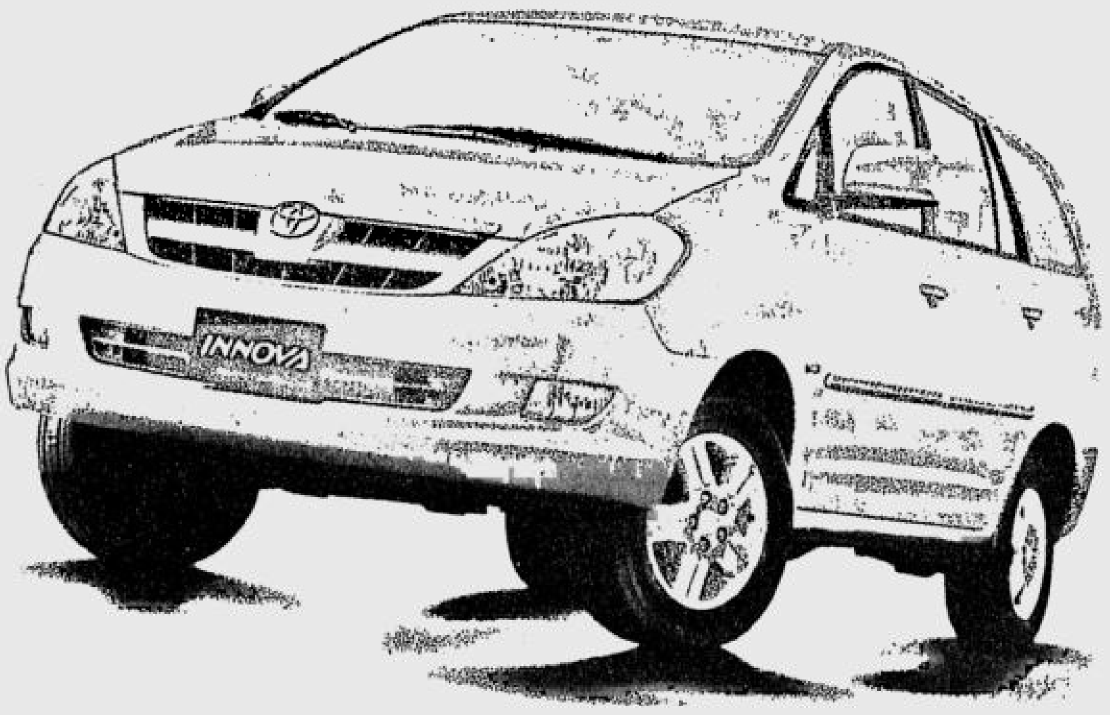
ORIX Auto Leasing has a fully-equipped repair and maintenance facility sitting on a 2,576 square-meter area in Paco, Manila. Operating on a 24-hour basis, the big facility that can accommodate hundreds of cars is staffed by well experienced and trained auto personnel. The facility also boasts of state-of-the-art equipment such as the 4-wheel electronic alignment, 2-post lifter 3 tons capacity, "banzai" engine analyzer and tester, "snap-on" eco-extreme recovery and recycling machine and the "john bean" tire changer. It also has a full car wash and detailing area and a big section for mechanical and electrical repairs. Aside from this Paco facility, ORIX Auto Leasing is fully prepared to offer full maintenance nationwide with tie-ups with car dealers and accredited repair shops with world-class facilities.

ORIX
CAR CARE CENTER
TYC 205





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D-4D
Provides powerful acceleration with maximum torque of 260Nm/1,600-2,400rpm for the A/T variant. Direct fuel injection results in better efficiency, lower engine noise.

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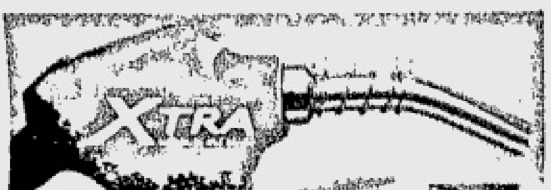
"I was inspired by your commercial.
I drove from Binondo to Iloilo City."
-Aaron Rich Coo, Auto Parts Sales Supervisor

Real people are experiencing real Xtra miles. Petron Xtra Unleaded.



PETRON
Fuel Success

RCBC celebrates 45 years of moving forward

For RCBC, every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better. Exactly 45 years ago, the bank knew it was the only way to succeed – to keep moving forward in it every endeavor. Indeed, the bank has proven itself right in this respect.

From its humble beginnings in 1960 as First Rizal Development Bank, it has since gained prominence in the banking industry as **Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation** or **RCBC**. With the pursuit of excellence as its overriding principle and with the unwavering support of its management and partners, RCBC has tremendously grown over the years.

"By strictly adhering to the highest standards of excellence in banking, RCBC has become what it is today, one of the country's largest universal banks with a strong, reputable track record," Honorary Chairman Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco said. "This gives us more reason to celebrate today – to celebrate the success we have made in our 45 years of moving forward."

"Our achievements continually inspire us to surge ahead to achieve our vision – to be among the industry leaders in terms of asset quality, profitability and service delivery," RCBC executive vice chairman and CEO Rizalino S. Navarro said.

Guided by this vision, RCBC continued to grow its business. As of the first half of 2005, the bank's total resources stood at P168.1 billion, up 10% from the end-2004 level. Navarro attributes this growth to the expansion in earning assets, notably investment in bonds and trading account securities which accounted for 59% of the bank's asset build-up. Net loan portfolio also improved by 5% or P5.4 billion.

"While total deposits remained steady at P109.8 billion, it was complemented by the successful issuance of US$150-million senior notes," said RCBC president and COO Francisco S. Magsajo Jr. He added that this was in line with the bank's thrust to generate long-term funding to match investments with the same tenor.

In 2004, the bank reported a net income of P1.38 billion or 28% higher than the year-ago level. Magsajo said this was mainly due to an increase in interest income resulting from the bank's extensive marketing efforts and overall improvement in spreads.

RCBC corporate vice chairman Cesar E.A. Virata said significant progress has been made in improving the bank's asset quality through the sale of non-performing loans (NPLs). Last year, approximately P4.4 billion in non-performing loans (NPLs) was sold to two special purpose vehicles (SPVs). Another P2.1 billion in NPL sale to ADM Macculus was consummated in February 2005.

Virata noted that with improvements in place in almost all aspects of operation, RCBC is now a formidable player in corporate banking, consumer lending, treasury services, asset management and OFW remittance services.

Amid all these accomplishments, "we are driven to achieve even more – not only for the bank but more so

continued to page 4 of supplement

'What keeps their *partnership* with RCBC *going?'* Clients speak out ...

CHARLES P. UYKIM SR.
President & GM
Cocomart Commodities, Inc.
RCBC TACLOBAN CLIENT

"RCBC has been my major bank for over 31 years now because financial support is always there when needed most, which gives us more time to think how to make money when big opportunities are around."

KEVIN DAVIS
VP/Managing Director
Dole Philippines, Inc.
RCBC DADIANGAS CLIENT

"With RCBC, I am assured that the banking needs of Dole are well-taken cared of. Simply put, RCBC understands our business."

DR. JULIAN S. LANSANG
RCBC COGON CLIENT SINCE 1999

"I've been banking with RCBC for 6 years and still have to find a day when I was not well-treated. Although I am an ordinary client, RCBC has acted for all these years as my extended family."

ARTURO D. PALILEO
President, ADP Industries Corp.
SMED/RCBC DILIMAN CLIENT

"RCBC listens and supports us in our needs to grow our business. It anticipates our needs and acts on it fast – that's the key to our strong partnership over the last 20 years."

FRANKIE and ESTELA LEE
Gemini Parts Center, Security Auto Supply
RCBC CEBU NRA CLIENT SINCE 1978

"What kept us with RCBC for over 25 years are its reasonable savings and investment plans that are able to adapt well with our business' growing needs. Customer service is quick, friendly and always ready to provide us with sound financial advice."

AURORA PANLILIO
President & CEO
Freeport Shipyard & Engineering Construction
SMED/RCBC TIMOG CLIENT SINCE 1993

"RCBC supports our financial needs and has been a source of growth in our corporate assets and in volumes of our contracted projects. We consider this partnership our most valuable asset."

JOENILO G. GARGARITANO
Owner, JJ Enterprises
RCBC KABANKALAN CLIENT SINCE 1993

"RCBC is a stable and reliable bank with excellent customer attention. My business operations are smoothly facilitated and greatly enhanced by the bank's sincere and personalized service."

SIMPLICIO P. UMALI JR.
General Manager
Gardenia Bakeries (Phils.), Inc.
CBDG/RCBC LIIP CLIENT SINCE 1998

"RCBC has been with Gardenia since we started in 1998. From a small business of P175 million sales, it saw us grow to the company we are now. It provides information on financial matters, economic development and projections, and shares with us best practices that helped serve as guide in our growth."

ALAN C. GO
RCBC GUADALUPE CLIENT SINCE 1992

"RCBC has been my partner in all my business endeavors because the support is always there, and I look forward to keeping this strong partnership as I carry out plans of business expansion."

JOSE H. MERCADO
President, Merlo Group of Companies
SMED/RCBC LIPA CLIENT SINCE 1978

"We chose RCBC primarily because it is a solid bank with a heart. It is one of the most financially stable banks staffed by competent people. We can always depend on it for our business' importation and working capital requirements."

BONIFACIO CABALLES
OFW - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
RCBC TELEMONEY
REMITTER FOR 7 YEARS

"Ang RCBC TeleMoney mabilis magpadala, mahusay ang serbisyo. Ang anim kong apo, pinag-open ko ng mga accounts dito. Parang kaibigan ko ang RCBC."

ROWENA COTIANGCO
OFW Beneficiary – Brunei
RCBC TELEMONEY
BENEFICIARY FOR 2 YEARS

"Sa RCBC TeleMoney, ok ang service, pati mga tellers very friendly: Kuntento ako dito kaya tuloy pa rin kami sa RCBC."

ARMAN and THERESE MARTINEZ
Global Gas & Oil Carriers, Inc.
Home Loan Client
RCBC SAVINGS BANK KATIPUNAN

"RCBC Savings Bank helped us realize our dream of having the ideal home for our family. With its competitive rates, personal touch and quick response to the services we require, we know that we're banking on a trusted partner."

MENELEO JR. and FILOMENA CARLOS
Entrepreneurs
RCBC SAVINGS BANK BARANGKA

"Apart from the convenient location, it is the personal attention we receive from the branch personnel that keeps us with RCBC Savings Bank. We feel not only important but 'at home' with the bank."

MOVING FORWARD with the YGC synergy

Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.

The words belonged to Henry Ford, but they seamlessly capture the essence of synergy that RCBC cherishes along with the other members of the Yuchengco Group of Companies (YGC).

The YGC has since worked and benefited from this principle of synergy. "When people of different backgrounds and skills work together, they create a power greater than the sum of their individual abilities. This is the strength of synergy. And this is the strength of YGC," states the group's marketing campaign.

The blue hexagon, the corporate symbol, represents the synergy at work within YGC. Its design shows the interconnection of the six sides through the overlapping pattern and their independence of one another. RCBC adopted this logo in 1968 to represent its integration with the financial services of YGC.

Now, after four decades of assimilated growth and leadership, RCBC is moving forward to greater avenues of growth. Sharpened by time, enriched by experience, and emboldened by this synergistic power, RCBC shares the forward thinking stance of YGC as it fully prepares for the advent of the future and welcomes the changes it brings.

A GLIMPSE OF OUR PROGR

September 23, 1960 – Rizal Development Bank, the first in the province of Rizal, was born with Antonio de las Alas as its first president.

January 2, 1963 – Rizal Develoment Bank became a full-fledged commercial bank and adopted the name Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) with Alfonso T. Yuchengco as Chairman.

1968 – RCBC used the hexagon logo for the first time, the same year it established its Treasury Department.

1973 – The bank established RCBC Securities, Inc., currently one of the largest local brokerage houses.

1974 - RCBC Capital Corp., formerly Philippine Pacific Capital Corp., was established, offering a complete range of investment banking and financial consulting services.

1975 – RCBC moved to its new head office along Buendia Extension (now Gil Puyat Avenue).

1986 – The bank became a publicly-held company with the listing of its shares at the Manila Stock Exchange.

1987 – It launched its ATM card and RCBC credit card.

1989 – RCBC became the country's 6th universal bank.

1990 – With eight other leading banks, RCBC founded and launched the shared ATM consortium called BancNet.

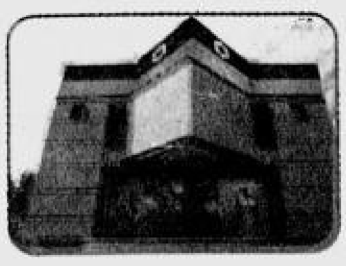
1991 – RCBC California International, Inc. was established in Daly City, California to offer reliable remittance services to Filipinos in the US.

ESS IN THE LAST 45 YEARS

1993 – RCBC launched its phone banking service.

1994 – The bank launched Kwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan (KKKK), a nationwide short story-writing contest for school children on how to care for the environment.

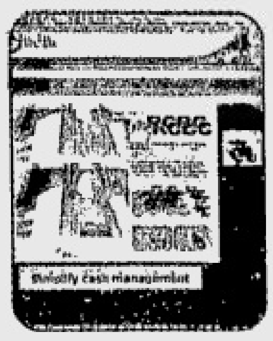
1996 – RCBC opened its thrift bank arm, RCBC Savings Bank.



1998 – RCBC Forex Brokers Corp. was formed; primarily engaged in the dealing and brokering of major world currencies.

2000 – RCBC acquired Bankard, Inc. to consolidate its credit card business.

2001 – RCBC Plaza was inaugurated; became RCBC's new headquarters. In the same year, RCBC introduced 'Enterprise Banking' for its corporate clients; and became the market leader in the Export/Economic Zone category and in dealer-generated car loans.



2003 – RCBC launched the payment gateway; offered BancNet Online and SMS banking to retail clients.

2004 – RCBC was cited as top fund manager by global firm Watson Wyatt for the fifth consecutive time.

2005 – RCBC and RCBC Savings Bank launched their joint consumer deposit promo, 'DRIVEN' and five new Unit Investment Trust Funds.

RCBC is now the Philippines' 7th largest commercial bank with consolidated resources of P199 billion as of June 27, 2005. •

Celebrating 45 years of moving forward

We believe banking is all about moving forward.

In any given circumstance, our choice is simply to surge ahead.

It's a belief that has moved our clients and customers closer to their goals.

And as we've clearly shown in the past 45 years – we move the best way

a bank can move: forward.

RCBC
A YGC Member

RCBC
Savings Bank
A YGC Member

Checking & Savings • Time Deposits • Trust Funds • Treasury Products • Electronic Banking • Remittances • Consumer Loans

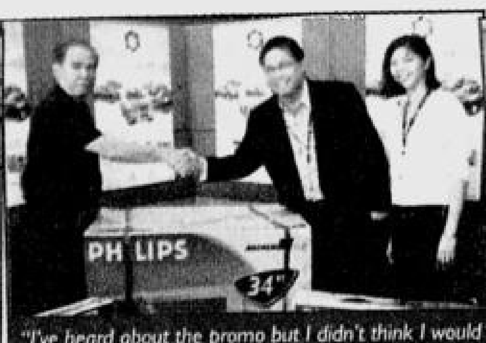
Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.
Deposits insured up to 250,000.

BancNet
Non-Stop Banking Network

RCBC and RCBC Savings Bank to give away P4 Million, Isuzu Trooper today

"I thought, at first, it was one of those prank calls. But when Robert (Soriano), Customer Service Head of RCBC Dagupan asked for my TIN and insisted that I come by the bank to get my new car, I knew it was for real." – Elena de Vera, winner of a brand new Honda City

"When RSB Biñan Manager Dorothy Alon-Alon called me up to tell me I won P100,000 cash in the DRIVEN draw, I could not believe it immediately. That money was really a big help to my business." – Amalia Guevarra, winner of P100,000 cash



"I've heard about the promo but I didn't think I would win because I've never won anything in any raffle before. But now, I have an entertainment showcase that my wife and I enjoy at home." – Aristeo del Mundo, winner of P100,000 worth of home entertainment showcase

Harsh Kumar Gupta, winner of P50,000 cash

Luciano Golveque Jr., winner of a brand new Honda Civic

'DRIVEN,' the joint savings promo of RCBC and RCBC Savings Bank culminates today with P4 million in cash prizes and a brand-new Isuzu Trooper at stake in the grand draw.

RCBC president and COO Francisco S. Magsajo Jr. said, "The DRIVEN promo was our way of nurturing our partnership with our depositors." At the same time, he said, "We wanted to raise public consciousness on the importance of savings in building their future. As a value-added feature, they get to earn not only interest but also the chance to win cash and premium items."

Since this joint RCBC and RSB offering kicked off last February, a total of P600,000 in cash prizes and P2 billion in lifestyle showcase packages have been given away. Five brand-new Honda and Isuzu vehicles have also been driven home by national winners in the monthly draws.

In today's draw, which will be held as part of RCBC's 45th anniversary celebration, four bank depositors will become instant millionaires, and a lucky one will grab the key to a brand new Isuzu Trooper!

RCBC RCBC Savings Bank DRIVEN

RCBC joins GAWAD KALINGA in building homes for the needy

RCBC president and COO Francisco S. Magsajo, Jr. (second from left) and GK Executive Director Antonio Meloto (third from left) during the recent check-donation rites. With them are RCBC SVP Ma. Teresita Nunez and GK Executive Assistant Jones Dizon.

As part of its commitment to nation-building, RCBC has donated P5 million to Gawad Kalinga (GK) Foundation, Inc. to fund the construction of homes for impoverished families starting in the last quarter of 2005 until 2006. The first of these 'RCBC Villages' will be in Baseco Compound, Tondo, Manila. Aside from the donation, RCBC officers and employees recently volunteered to help out in the BUILD activity at the site as succeeding photos show.

RCBC officers and employees join hands during the groundbreaking for 'RCBC Villages' at Baseco Compound.

from page 1 RCBC celebrates ...

for our clients," Navarro said. This high regard for clients, he said, has earned for the bank a sound reputation from among its clientele.

RCBC's growing roster of clients includes such prestigious business conglomerates as the Ayala Group, the San Miguel-Coca-Cola Group, Jollibee Food Corporation and the PLDT-Smart Communic-ations Group, among others. The bank has likewise carved strong niches in the Filipino-Chinese market; economic zones and Japanese market; and the small- to medium-scale enterprises.

"These invaluable partnerships are also a product of our constant improvements in products and service delivery," Magsajo said. In particular, Magsajo said the bank has consciously kept pace with technological advancements in banking to offer the most convenient and efficient services that are adaptable to clients' needs. "We strive to know and understand what our clients require and ensure that these are met effectively. We also want to make banking as easy as possible for them."

"For instance, we have one of the most secure and complete corporate internet banking solutions – the RCBC Enterprise Banking," he continued. "Now we are launching the myRCBC Access Card for our individual customers, so they can use our new Internet and phone banking facilities for all their RCBC accounts. We will even have a special Internet facility for our Private Banking clients," he added.

Moving forward, Virata said management maintains its optimism about the bank's prospects. "Despite a challenging operating environment, we are confident we can sustain our growth with continued initiatives to improve the quality of our earnings and assets," he said.

Sharing Virata's outlook, Navarro said, "Our record of stability and strength, our resilience in the midst of adversities, and our firm resolve to attain our vision will definitely keep us moving forward to more successful years ahead."

For his part, Magsajo said the bank will continue to tap opportunities in growth areas, such as OFW remittances, small and medium enterprises, trust, and wealth management; as well as potential mergers and acquisitions. "We will also continue to enhance product development and service delivery, while strengthening risk management in all dimensions," he said.

LIFESTYLE

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or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MC ◉ TUESDAY **FITNESS** ◉ WEDNESDAY **2BU** ◉ THURSDAY **FOOD** ◉ FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

JADE CREPE satin wrap bodice-seamed gown AP

Monique Lhuillier celebrates motherhood

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

TALK ABOUT A FILIPINA who has it all. **Monique Lhuillier**, already savoring fame and fashion celebrityhood in Los Angeles and New York, is five months on the way with her first child. The milestone has been adequately reported in fashion rags in the US.

As you must know by now, Monique is the first Filipino designer to make it in the American fashion mainstream and to dress up Hollywood icons for the red carpet and on their wedding day (e.g. **Britney Spears** and **Kevin Costner's** wife). She spun off her bridal gown business into a high-glam couture line that's now part of the fashion collections in Los Angeles and New York.

She and husband **Tom Bugbee**, a former finance man who has steered Monique's business, must feel on top of the world now that they are for their firstborn—a son.

The recent New York Fashion Week was extra special for Monique. "This season is personally very emotional for me. I was elated when I discovered we would soon be welcoming an addition to our family," she wrote to introduce her 2006 Spring/Summer collection.

"I found myself very reflective, giddy and passionate throughout the design process. For day, I took my inspiration from the '60s mod period, with volume and swing in the skirts, jackets and cocktail dresses. Evening is fluid and soft with a quiet, elegant feel. Hints of art deco adorn the gown. The smoky color palette gives it an overall dramatic sultry feeling."

"F" host **Daphne Oseña** was there and wrote us to say how happy Monique seemed, what with her parents **Michel** and **Amparito Lhuillier** also around to share the news. Interestingly it was the first time Monique's dad Michel saw her show.

The show was well received by fashion critics, including the New York Times' **Cathy Horn**. Fashion bible Women's Wear Daily reviewed her collection alongside those of **Marc Jacobs** and **Bill Blass**. After noting the volume and "swing" in Monique's collection, also the Sabrina-style ballerina dresses in white, pastels, WWD wrote, "Lhuillier is now firmly ensconced in creating romantic evening looks, a logical direction she took after years of designing bridal collections. And whether she swung her latest silhouettes away from the body or kept them close, they all had the designer's signature grace."

Aside from the lace sheaths and chiffon gowns, WWD drooled over her "short looks

MONIQUE/ C4

The Filipino designer who's on top of the fashion world draws inspiration from pregnancy

MONIQUE Lhuillier

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5211 series of 2005

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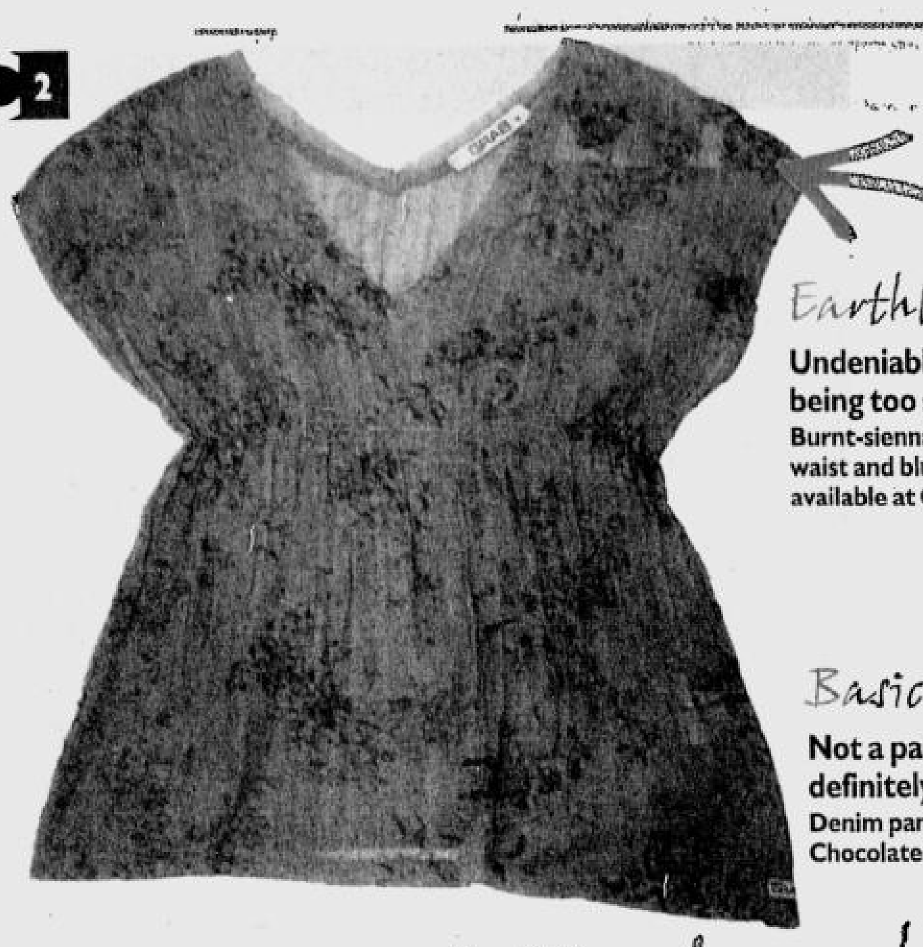
Mechanics:
1. The promo is open to all dine-in, take-out & delivery guests of Shakey's restaurant from August 1 - December 31, 2005.
2. Open to all Globe, Smart and Sun Cellular Subscribers, postpaid or prepaid.
3. For every purchase of the pizza of the month (any size or crust) and/or new products at Shakey's, guest will receive a raffle coupon.
4. The coupon that contains the winning code and transaction receipt must be kept to serve as proof of purchase. Guests can only send code ONCE to qualify as one raffle entry.
5. The subscriber needs to register the said information to validate his/her entry. Raffle entries without the complete information will not be considered as a valid entry. Just text the code in this format:
SHAKEY'S REG <Promo Code>/<Full Name>/<Address>/<Age>/<Gender>
Ex.: SHAKEYS REG AGR1000/Paolo delosReyes/#8 Banlat QC/28/M
and send to 2966 for SMART, GLOBE and SUN Cellular Subscribers
6. For succeeding entries after registration, subscribers may just use this format:
Sample: SHAKEYS <Promo Code> Example: SHAKEYS MBR1000

For more information on the promo, text SHAKEYS 30 to 2966

SEE POSTERS FOR DETAILS

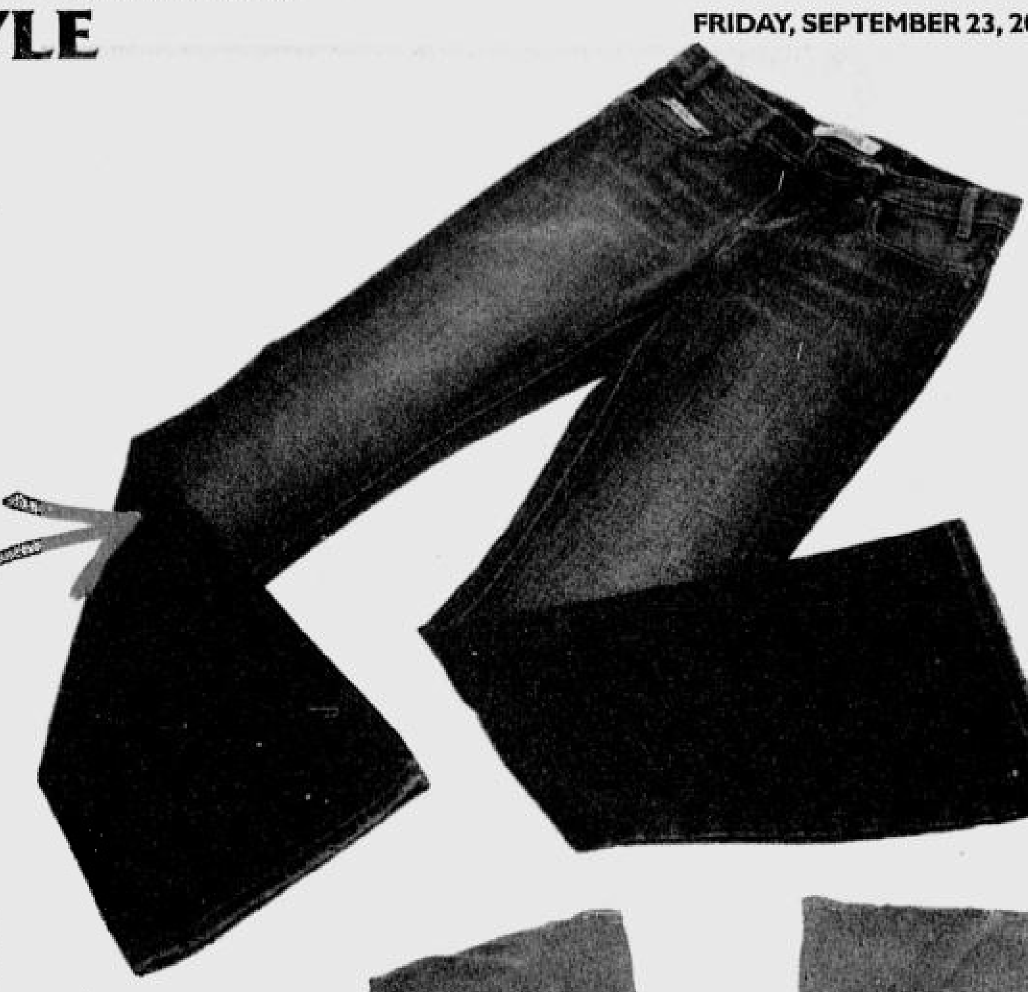
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4183 series of 2005



Earthbound angel

Undeniably feminine without being too slinky

Burnt-sienna top with ruched empire waist and blue floral patterns (P1,195), available at Chocolate



Basic blue

Not a pair of bell bottoms, but definitely has flare—and flair

Denim pants (P3,795), available at Chocolate

Window shopping

That '70s show

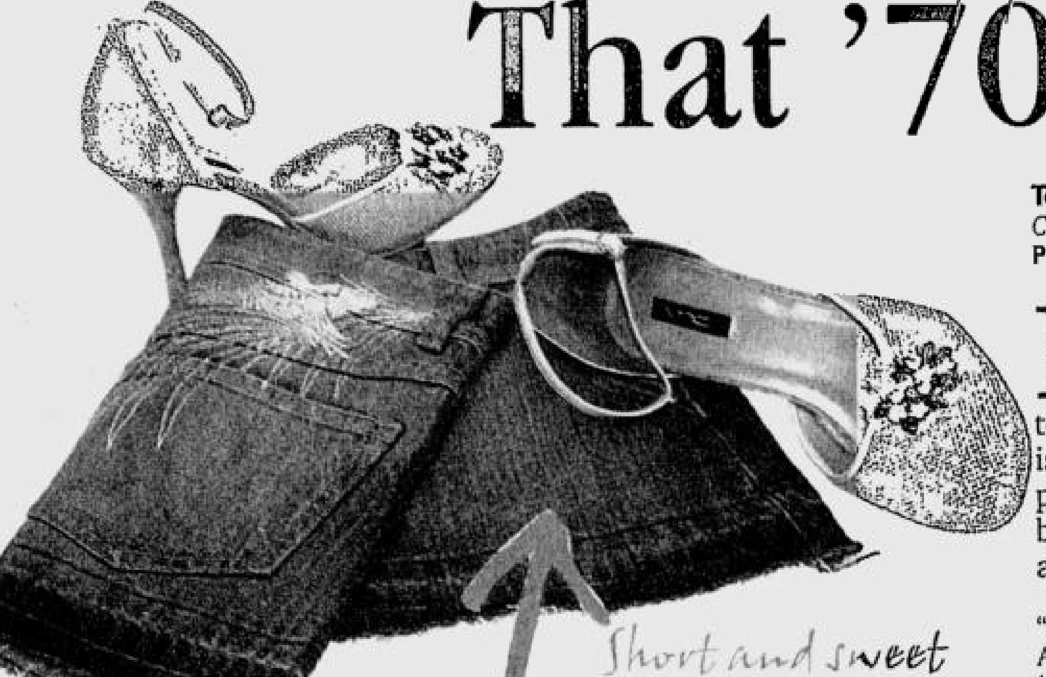
Text by Shirley Oh and Beia Formoso
Contributor
Photos by Janus Victoria

PEOPLE GET IT WRONG ALL the time: '70s fashion isn't all about tight polyester bell bottoms and psychedelic prints. A lot of it is actually about the natural ease of preppie/hipster dressing, spruced up by details such as crocheted accents and earthy hues.

Think tomboy chic a la Donna Pinciotti from "That 70's Show." Or, for a more classic reference, Ali MacGraw in "Love Story": easy, breezy fashion that hits the right note of unfussy chic.

Fast-forward to the 21st century and you can match dark flared denims and ethnic-inspired sandals with soft pieces, such as knit tops or airy blouses, during the day. For night, work the sex appeal with angel-sleeved blouses worn with micro-minis.

Don't forget the heels. And, oh, afros are definitely not needed.

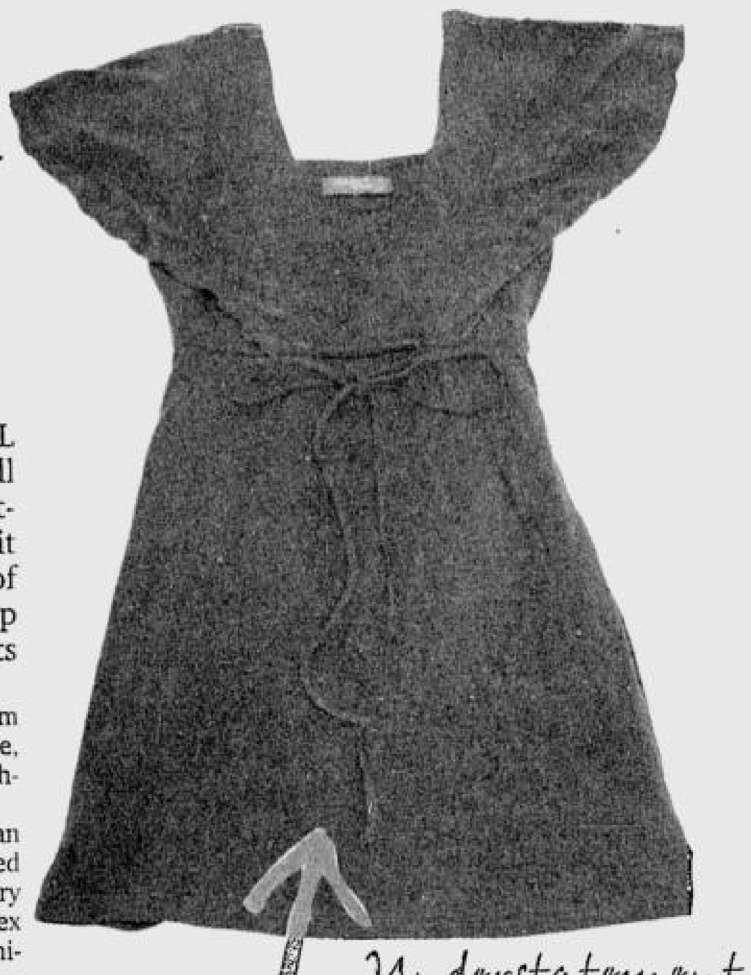


Short and sweet

Hit the dance floor with micro-minis and conversation-starting shoes.

Blue denim skirt with stenciled bird design (P2,595), available at Chocolate

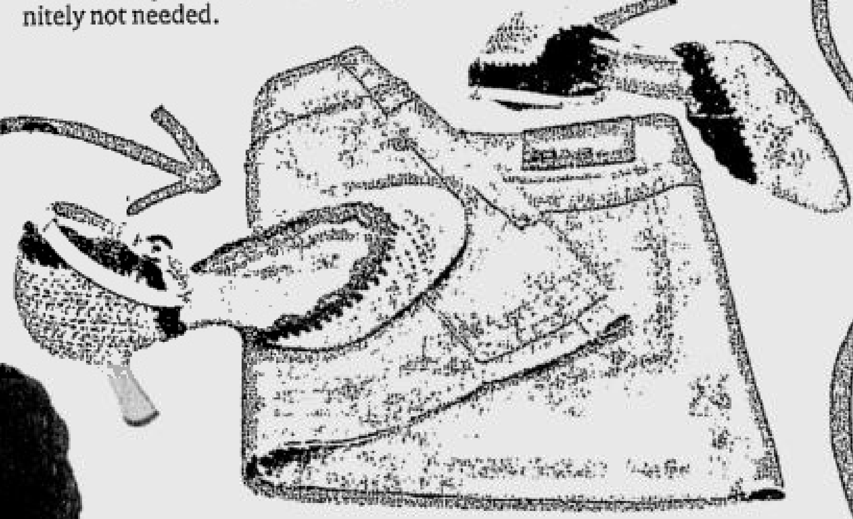
Aquamarine ankle-strap pumps with white leather piping, cork soles and jewel detail, price available upon request at VNC



Understatement

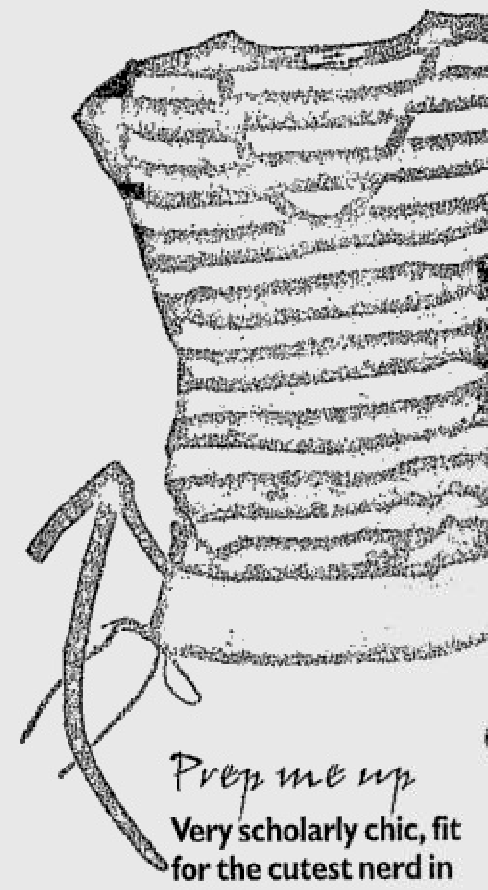
Who says sexy needs to be figure-skimming?

Dark blue empire-waist top with faux-angel sleeves (P1,895), available at Chocolate



Dusty green denim skirt (P2,195), available at Chocolate

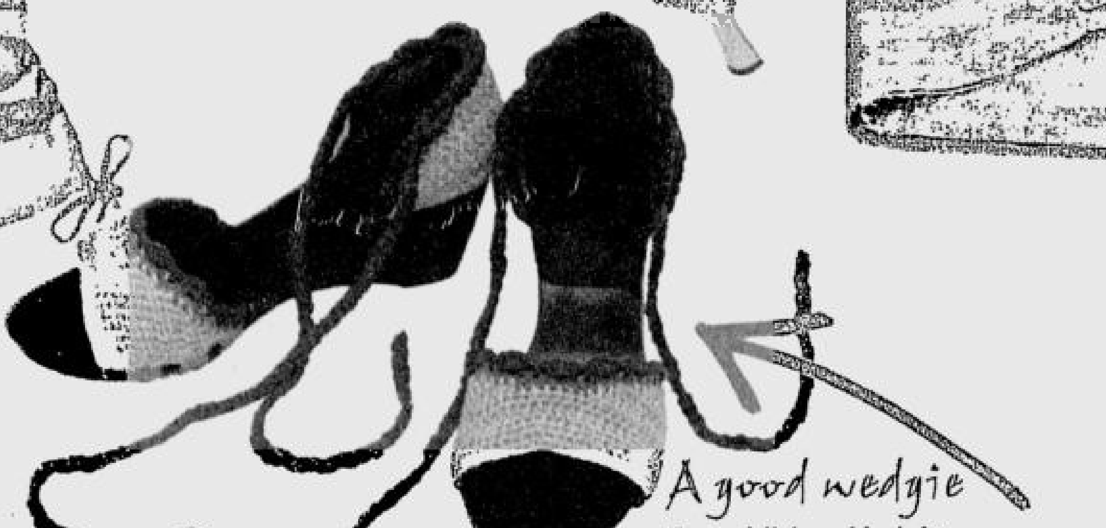
Green crocheted ankle-strap pumps with white leather upper, price available upon request at VNC



Prep me up

Very scholarly chic, fit for the cutest nerd in class

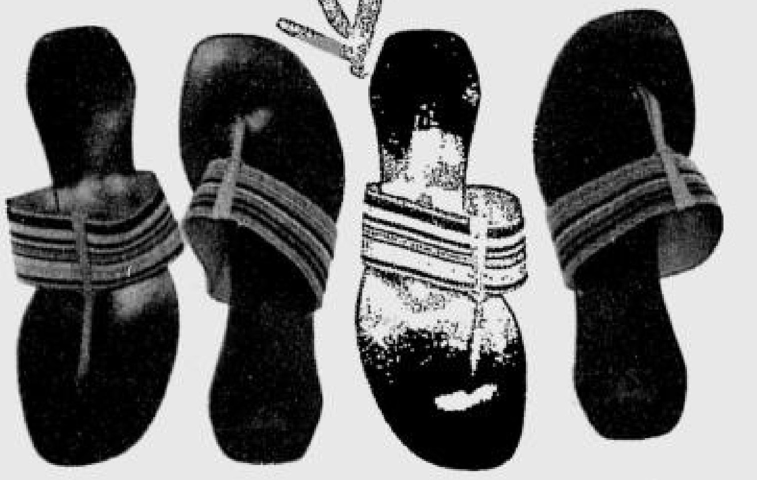
Blue-and-melon striped V-neck knit top with ruched sides (P1,595), available at Chocolate



A good wedgie

For additional height and far-out glam factor

Ecru-and-red gladiator-style wedges, price available upon request at VNC



No flat notes

When your sandals are made of durable material in subtly eye-catching shades

Wooden T-strap sandals, price available upon request at VNC

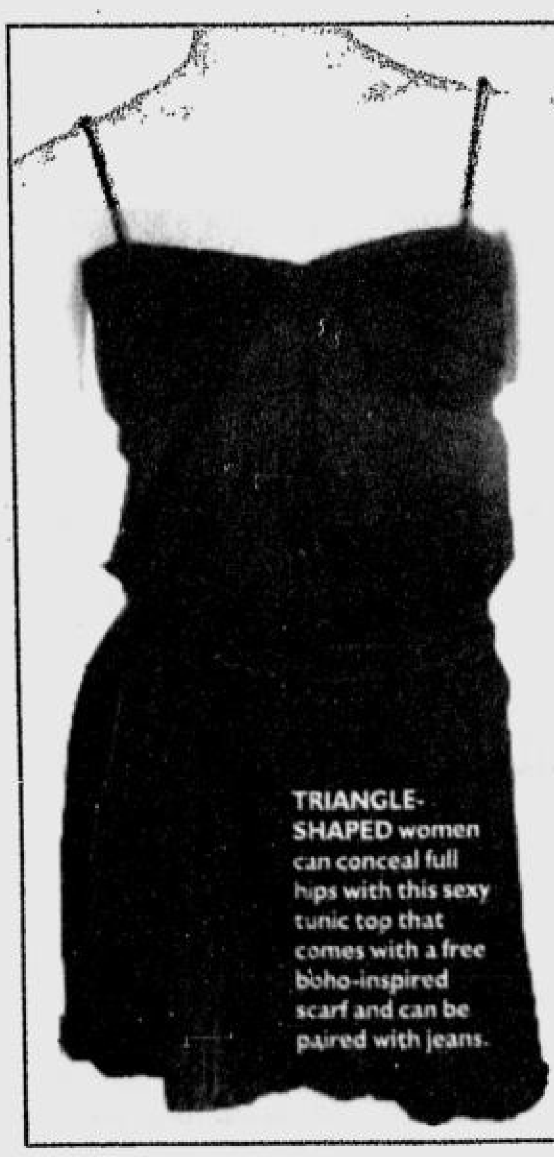
Tantalizing tunics

TUNIC TOPS ARE THE IN-THING OF the season. It's a classic piece of garment that can either conceal or emphasize womanly figures. In the market, ForMe tunics are preferred because it provides styles that match the four different body shapes of women: hourglass, triangle, rectangle and inverted triangle.

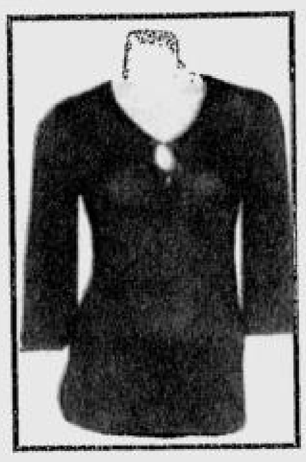
From sexy tubes to embroidered, beaded or printed chiffon, any confident lady shopper can choose an ideal tunic top that will look perfect on her.

Even better, when you buy a tunic top at ForMe, you also get a free Boho-inspired scarf to match it. The store staff will teach you how to use the scarf as a belt, headband, obi, necklace and a rose knot.

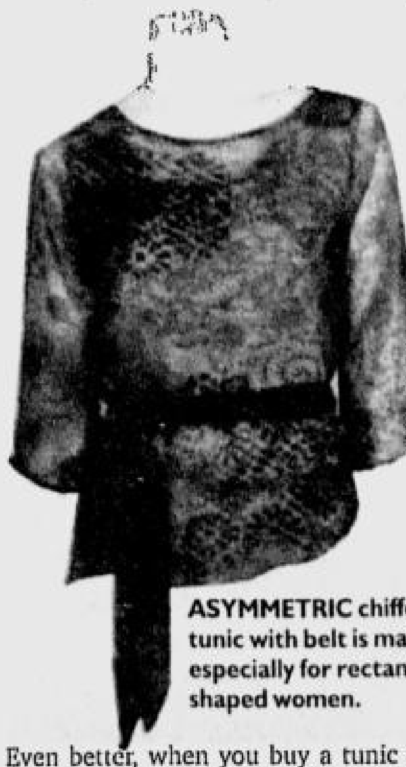
ForMe stores are located in SM North Edsa Annex, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, SM Southmall, SM Pampanga, SM Bacoor, Alabang Festival Mall, Market! Market! The Shops Greenhills and Ayala Center Cebu.



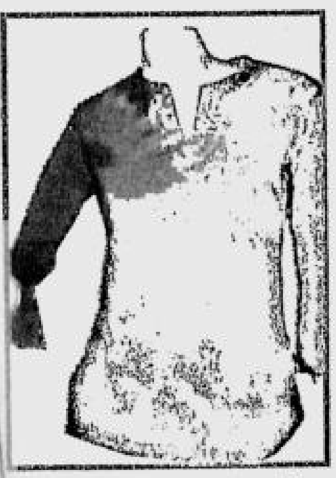
TRIANGLE-SHAPED women can conceal full hips with this sexy tunic top that comes with a free boho-inspired scarf and can be paired with jeans.



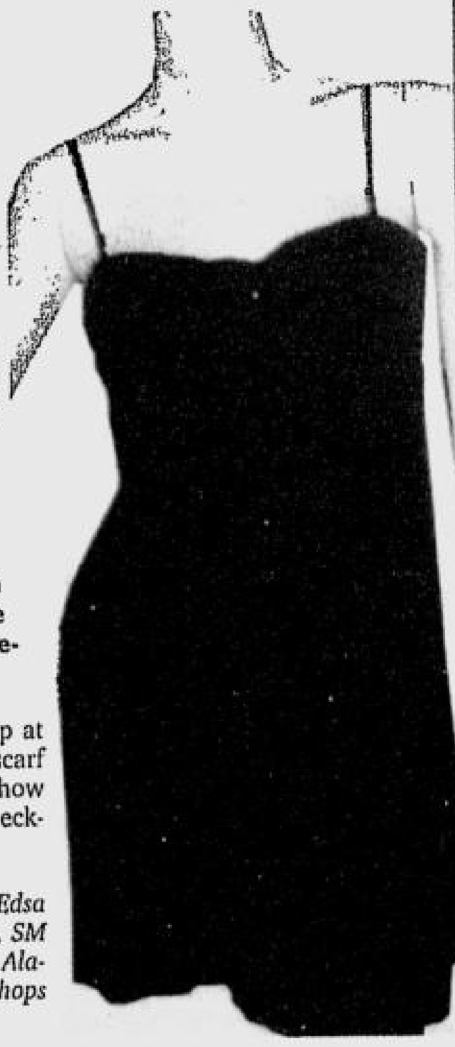
OLIVE beaded tunic hugs an hourglass figure. Also available in orange.



ASYMMETRIC chiffon tunic with belt is made especially for rectangle-shaped women.



PINK and green tunic with embroidery can diminish the upper body of an inverted triangle female.



VERSATILE tunic tube top becomes a dress or skirt. Just remove the straps.

RALPH Lauren's Fall '05 Polo Collection

Ivy League elegance

FOR THE FALL '05 POLO COLLECTION, Ralph Lauren goes for the vibrant world of the New England prepster and the rarified elegance of life on a country estate.

An Ivy League varsity life inspires the cream and gray palettes of the Cambridge collection. Crisp tailored clothing is juxtaposed with athletic wear to portray bohemian individuality. Henleys and cricket sweaters are thrown into the mix with luxurious pinstripes and shearlings. Warm track pants and cargos are teamed with chunky cable knit sweaters and worn with a rich shearling jacket.

Lauren also refreshes one of his signature looks by evoking and updating Camelot-era Hyannisport. He mixes nostalgic/vivid pastels, bold prints and earthy tweeds. Bright corduroy trousers are matched with patchwork plaid shirts and teamed with luxurious wool sweaters in fairisle and cable.

A myriad of hunting motifs from duck hunting to fly fishing are incorporated in iconic Polo silhouettes. Cargo pants are loosely mixed with tartan shirts, and elevated with tailored brown herringbone tweed Congressman sportcoats.

The timeless sensibility of country life is updated with cool elegance, presented in a somber palette of black, brown and olive. Cargo pants are paired with rich cable knits. Heavy olive corduroy trousers go with a warm alpaca cardigan in vibrant purple, plus the requisite check shirt and cloth tie.

Polo Ralph Lauren is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Polo Ralph Lauren Menswear is available at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 158 Designers' Blvd., Alabang Town Center and 1/F Rustan's Makati.

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BACKSTAGE: Daphne Oseña, Monique Lhuillier and Patrick Paez

LULI Arroyo, Amparito and Michel Lhuillier

THE AUDIENCE: Herald Tribune's Suzy Menkes in purple; a few rows behind, partly hidden, Ricco Ocampo and Doris Magsaysay-Ho

Monique Lhuillier celebrates motherhood

From page C1

(which) were the freshest, such as the lean halter tuxedo dress and a little back-buttoned tuxedo shell in white eyelet tucked into a black embroidered tulle and chiffon flared skirt."

Aside from Daphne and journalist-husband **Patrick Paez,** other Filipinos who saw Monique's collection included **Ricco** and **Tina Ocampo, Doris Magsaysay Ho, Monique Villonco** and **Tunting Cruz Mathers.**

Doris and Ricco, we were told, lost no time in asking Monique yet again to bring her collection to Manila in 2006 for the Bantay Bata benefit gala—a plan that's been two years in the making.

It is hoped that in 2006 her countrymen here will finally see a Monique Lhuillier collection.

Tribute to Fr. Galdon

Former students and friends—who must be legions—of Fr. **Joseph Galdon** are marking the Jesuit's 77th birthday tomorrow with a tribute.

Father Galdon was a highly popular English and Literature teacher at Ateneo and later Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, who was known for his brief yet insightful homily. This skill at giving significant reflections in a nutshell was put to good use in the '80s and '90s when he wrote the highly popular column "Mustard Seed" for the Sunday Chronicle and later, in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

It is interesting that while I was the editor who asked him to write these columns, I never sat down and met him. He communicated with us through writing. Yet he was a larger-than-life presence in my growing-up years—as a retreat master. Our class at St. Theresa's remembered him because, first, he looked like **Bob Hope;** and second, because his reflections were so swift and peppered with anecdotes they never put us to sleep.

As it turned out, teachers at Ateneo and from all over the country remember him for a lot more—his classroom management expertise, how he could manage a class of 50 or 60, and his passion for training teachers. He founded the Ateneo Center for English Language Teaching in 1981 to reach out to more teachers.

We learn now that he's been stricken with Alzheimer's disease. Yet his influence has been considerable enough for the alumni and friends to form the Father Galdon Club.

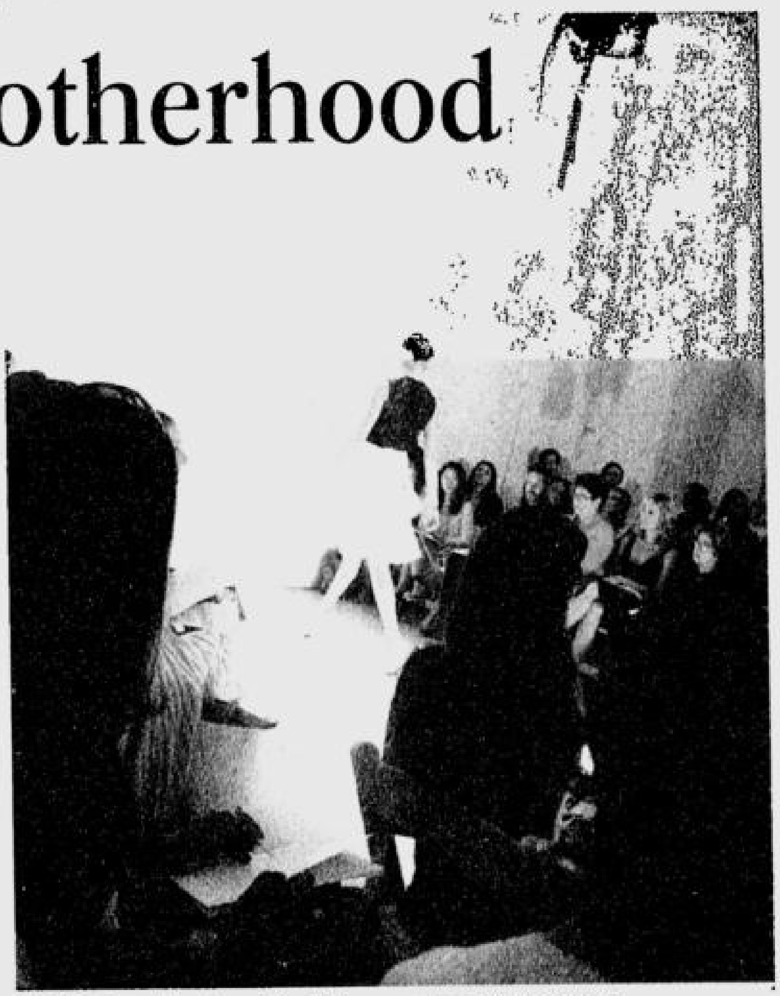
The Club and the Women of Ateneo will hold the Tribute tomorrow, 3-5 p.m., at the Manuel V. Pangilinan Center, at Ateneo campus. Fr. **Joaquin Bernas,** SJ, will be the special guest speaker.

Those wishing to greet Father Galdon must make time tomorrow. Call **Vicky Calderon,** 4266001 loc 5315, or email vcalderon@ateneo.edu.

Dynamic pursuit

Pursuing a life after cancer diagnosis has never been this dynamic. On Sunday, at Edsa Shangri-La, the I Can Serve Foundation is hosting a series of talks on coping with breast cancer in various dimensions, from the clinical to the philosophical, the personal and the ennobling. The whole-day affair will include topics such as Silver Linings (the most touching and powerful testimonies) led by breast cancer survivor **Bibeth Orteza,** Setting Up Hospice Care by **Susan Reyes,** and How The Other Half Copes by **Jim Paredes, Carlitos Siguion Reyna** and **Honey Carandang.** There'll also be the practical side: Carcinogens at home and the environment by Dr. **Becky Singson,** Diet Holiday for the Patient by **Rachel Alejandro,** even on-the-spot wig demonstrations, and how to look and feel good during and after chemo. Call 6873942.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph


FROM the collection, silk white gazar hand-tufted skirt

Fab 8 Image Search awards night set

THIRTY SEMI-FINALISTS WILL compete in the Fab 8 Image Search awards night on Nov. 28 at NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Complex, Makati. The semi-finalists recently showed their talents in the Major Go-See final screening recently held at Robinsons Galleria.

GOINGS ON

CONCERT. Pianist Nick Nangit breathes life to the World's Favorite Encores in Paco Park Presents tonight at 6 at Paco Park, San Marcelino, Manila. Admission is free.

BRIDAL FAIR. Nico's Empire Trade Fair and Exhibit Organizer mounts a bridal fair dubbed Happily Ever After until tomorrow at Activity Center of Market! Market!, Bonifacio Global City. The fair is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Free admission to soon-to-wed couples.

BAZAAR. Shop@Le Pavillion will be held Sept. 24 and 25, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at Le Pavillion, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Blvd., Manila.

SURFING TILT. The Philippine Surfing Circuit 2005 will hold a pro-surfing competition on Sept. 24-26 in Siargao Island; Oct. 6-9, Guiuan, Eastern Samar; Oct. 20-23, Catanduanes; Nov. 14-21, Lanuza, Surigao del Sur; and Dec. 15-18, San Juan, La Union. Call Zeny Pallugna at 0919-5355056 or Mhay Rondael, 0917-2085317.

ANNIVERSARY. Robinsons Place Iloilo marks its first anniversary of Paseo Iloilo with ABS-CBN's Kapamilya Fiesta on Sept. 24 and 25. Festivities will start tomorrow with a motorcade, food fest and show. On Sept. 25, a Mass, medical mission and concert will be held.

TRADE FAIR. Negros Trade Fair in Manila is ongoing until Oct. 2 at Gateway Mall in Araneta Center. The 2005 MassKara Festival will be launched today and tomorrow while Pasasalamat drumbeaters of La Carlota City will play at various parts of Araneta Center.

BAZAAR. The annual Assumption Bazaar will be held Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 at Hotel InterContinental Manila. Tickets will be sold at the entrance. Proceeds will benefit Assumption Charities. Call 8943561/8943580.

PERFORMANCE. Concert at the Park presents Sinulog on Sept. 25 at Rizal Park open-air auditorium, Manila. The program features the junior and senior Tourism students of Centro Escolar University. Admission is free.

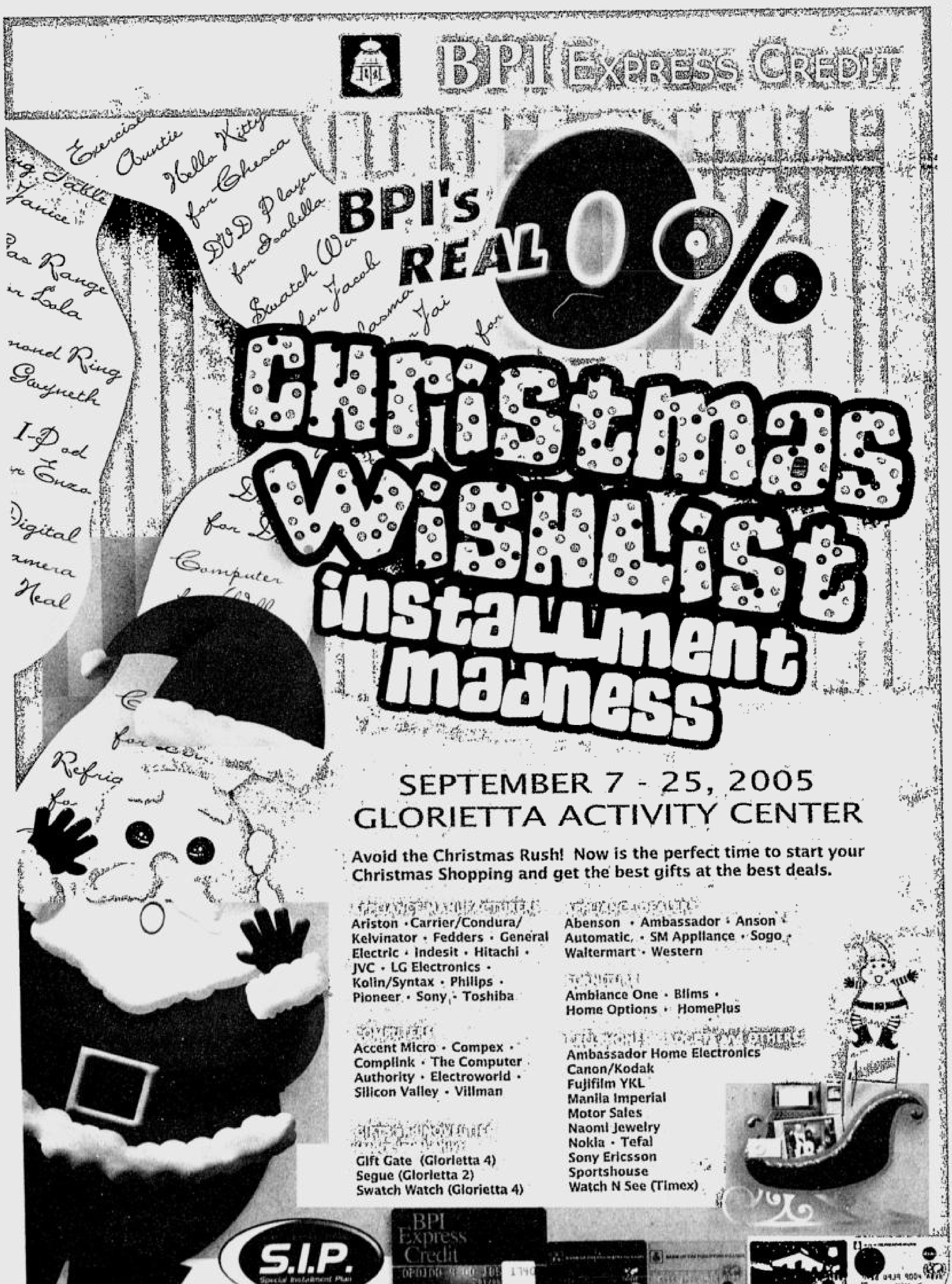
EXHIBIT. The Philippine School of Interior Design mounts a graduation exhibit dubbed PSID Gets Personal on Sept. 30-Oct. 31 at Greenbelt 1, Makati. The advanced class of 2005 will feature 22 booths divided into 6 design personality categories: laid-back, sensual, pure, urban, bohemian and wild.

PROMO. The Standard Chartered Bank and Avid promo is ongoing until Sept. 30. Shop at any branch of AVSurfer, Best Brands and Avid Sony Shop using your Standard Chartered Bank credit cards and avail of discounts and free items. Call 8431541.

LECTURE. International designer Karim Rashid will visit Manila this month to meet local exporters, designers and craftsmen and hold a design talk titled Beautiful Shrinking World on Sept. 30 at Every Nation Institute, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Call 6312834.

PHOTO SHOW. A photo exhibit on Face: A Depiction of Women in Society will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at Rockwell Tent, Makati. Participating are Wig Tysmans, Romy Vitug, Edwin Tuyay, Ibarra Deri, Andie de Silva, Donald Tapan, Sonny Yabao, Chito Vecina, Ben Razon, Derek Soriano, Joe Galves, Jun Barrameda, Willy Avila, Toto Tarroza, Mon Acasio, Gil Nartea, Xander Angeles, Dominique James and George Tapan. Admission is free.

WENCESCO Enterprises celebrates its 50th year with an ongoing fashion exhibit until Sept. 30 at 292 Jose Abad Santos, Little Baguio, San Juan. Call 7246802. Photo shows (from left) Nina Huang, Store Specialists, Inc.; Guia Gomez; and Bonifacio Chua, Future Logic Corp.



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DUNKIN' DONUTS
SLABSTERS

Phoemela Barranda
I drink at least eight glasses of water every day because it's good for my skin. I also go to the gym three times a week for some cardio exercises. Then, I do yoga at home every morning for some basic stretching and relaxation.

Isabel Roces
Healthy eating is key to staying fit. Personally, I follow a vegetarian diet. I also do yoga three times a week and go to the gym once in a while to stretch and tone.

Contrary to what you think, models aren't anorexic; in fact, they're athletic

Staying fit the supermodel way

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

PEOPLE OFTEN assume that models are rail-thin because they starve themselves and work out obsessively. Others believe their slim figure is pure genetic luck.

Although these are true to a certain extent, majority of today's models lead healthy lifestyles that consist of a balanced diet and a regular exercise routine.

I know this for a fact because during the recent "Modelympics" organized by the Professional Models Association of the Philippines, I was able to witness Manila's top and upcoming models get physical in a series of athletic activities.

No, the models did not at all look like frail, anorexic skeletons (not most of them, anyway!). They were mostly healthy, fit and flushed with a youthful glow.

I was able to ask a handful of these headturners to share their fitness routines, and it's apparent that the key is consistency in whatever exercise you choose to engage in or diet you opt to follow. In any case, I hope you find inspiration from these practical tips that just might help you get fit the supermodel way.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com.

Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez
A combination of proper diet and exercise is needed to do it. One cannot be without the other.

It's necessary for me to do cardio exercises at least three times a week to get my metabolism going. On alternate days, I do strength-training by lifting medium weights or engage in sports such as [illegible].

Yoga also helps a lot in toning my muscles.

Marilyn Maristela
Brisk walking is the best exercise for me. I also try to eat healthy and refrain from drinking alcohol. Plus, I make sure I get at least 8-10 hours of sleep every night.

Grace Molina
I follow a low-carb diet and drink lots of water. I also take pineapple juice for fiber, which will hopefully help cleanse my system.

I go to the gym every day for two hours to lift light weights and do crunches for firm abdominal muscles.

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THE FAB AMBIANCE of the chandeliered tent and Moroccan-style dining, superbly organized by hostess Vicky Zubiri

PROFESSIONAL belly dancers have the invitees applauding for more.

HEY, we love to party! Audrey Tan, Maripi Muscat, Mikey Cojuangco and Rossana Araneta Fores

Fun Moroccan nights

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

THEY ARE ALL KNOWN TO BRIGHTEN and light up Cosmo Manille's social scene. And let me warn you, *palanggas,* rain or shine they come comfortably in their long gown, tux, day or cocktail wear or just in comfy casual, but always with a dash of chic.

That's how it was. The men came in their no-nonsense casuals and the women, in their Moroccan-inspired color prints.

The scene, *palanggas,* was an Alabang garden fantastically transformed in an elegant Moroccan chandeliered tent, with Persian rugs scattered over the elevated wooden floor and throw-pillows around the low tables.

All this painstaking preparation and organization was for the birthday celebration of Bukidnon's irreplaceable and respected governor, **Joe Zubiri**. His ultra-glam wife, **Vicky Fernandez Z.** went all out in making the birthday bash extra-memorable.

Glenda Barretto of Via Mare outdid herself with the fab Moroccan dinner menu.

Starters consisted of the yummy mushrooms and spinach cigars and the delicious Baba Ghanoush hummus.

Main course was chicken artichokes and feta pie; the excellent lamb and merquez on couscous, perfectly roasted leg of lamb, fruity rice and watercress chili salad.

The homemade moussaka, a specialty of Vicky, was finished before you could bat an eyelash. Dessert was honey yoghurt cake.

For extras, **Sigalit Djemal** brought two of her famous caviar cakes, upon request of Vicky. Well, dahlings, before dinner was over, both cakes were wiped out.

When you have the original maker of the caviar cakes in town, it's the taste that makes the big difference, *n'est ce pas* (as in, *di bala*)?

And for the grand surprise of the evening, Vicky had two eye-catching belly-dancing instructors do a couple of sexy belly-dancing numbers with Joe and his son, Rep. **Miguel Zubiri** getting into the act, to the absolute approval of the invitees.

The wives all swore they would all take up belly dancing.

When the dancers finished, many of the society gals tried to dance on the floor, and only vivacious Sigalit Djemal and stunningly beautiful **Maricris Zobel** (looking divine from her recent trip to Sottogrande in Spain) got close to the real thing.

All the rest should enroll and take belly dancing seriously.

Statuesque beauty **Rica Gonzales Garcia** was smashing in black. "I should have worn my authentic Moroccan wear which I have at home," she told me, while her super-steady escort for years, businessman **Cesar Gabaldon,** was busy taking photos.

He told me, "Maurice, let **Alex** (Van Hagen) rest and I'll take the shots."

Naturellement, Alex refused and said, "Thank you, you party and I'll work."

Adorable former Ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, **Ching Escaler**, was having a ball. And during dinner she and I were comparing notes on the vitamins we take. She declared me a winner with the 46 vitamins I swallow twice a day, to her 15. "Oh well, you win some, you lose some," she said.

Gorgeous **Carol Garcia** had the most scrumptious back of the evening while **Mindy Perez Rubio** wore the most colorful beaded blouse.

Hostess Vicky was glamour-plus in her stylish gypsy-inspired bustier which she got from a trendy French boutique in Paris.

Once the excellent dinner was over, with more Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin champagne and booze-pouring, the invitees got on the roll with the awesome Moroccan music. Everyone had fun and chatted the night away till 4 a.m.

Only the most obedient "creme de menthe" of Makati and Alabang's business and social set, toasted to Joe Z. for many more moons of good health, wealth and happiness.

Vicky at the end told me, "This is the last party I'll give. But there are still the wedding receptions for my son Miguel in December: one in Bukidnon, the other in Tagaytay. Thank goodness when **Stephanie** (her youngest daughter) gets married in July in Toulous, France, her future in-laws are taking care of the reception at their estate."

One thing's for sure. When the Zubiri couple entertains, you can be sure of fun.

Hey, Joe here's to more memorable times to come. Cheers, *palangga*!

Bazaar

It's the time of the year when all those bazaars start popping out like mushrooms, *palanggas,* and like in the past years, the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines will hold a pre-Christmas Grand Bazaar to raise funds for its various projects.

This year, the two-day bazaar will be held on Sept. 24-25, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., at the World Trade Center on Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Admission is free.

FCCP is a non-stock, nonprofit organization that nurtures talented artists and gives scholarship and financial grants to deserving ones.

Hey, all you interested concessionaires, call Angie at 8173905, 8170670 or 0920-9044279. Booths are still available.

BUSINESSMAN and Nissan director Nick Locsin and wife Lucille Carlos L.

SUPER PALS. Kookie Perez Rubio and wife, statuesque eye-catcher Mindy P.R., and Louie Ysmael

PALS from way back. Connie Gonzales Araneta, Susan Reyes and Carol Garcia

THREE MUSKETEERS. Successful entrepreneurs Charlie Carmona, Koncoy Tuason and Joe Fores

POPULAR couple. Business magnate Randy Rufino and his vivacious Cecil Carrion

STUNNING beauties. Gina Tambunting Roxas, Maricris Cardenas Zobel, Rossana Araneta Fores and Carol Garcia

THE MOROCCAN CONNECTION. Raul Manzano, Bella Vasquez, celebrator Gov. Joe Zubiri, his wife, the hostess Vicky Z., *moi*, Sigalit Djemal, Maricris Zobel and Toffer Vidal

SO IN LOVE. The beauty Maripi Muscat and the man, Johnny Velasquez

ADORABLE couple Al and Carla Tengco

STILL on cloud nine. Rica Gonzales Garcia and her constant love and escort, Cesar Gabaldon

GOTCHA! Fun pals Bong Daza and Vicky Lopez Tuason

TAKE THIS SHOT. Glamorous jeweler Doodie Menchaca Tuason

POLO player and businessman Iñigo Zobel and Fermin Villalon

CARLO Corro and Rep. Miguel Zubiri

PEDRO Roxas, Linggoy Araneta and Ed Pineda

GORGEOUS Carol Garcia with the slinkiest back of the night

Lyzette Banzon C.

SO CHIC and so famous. Peter Garrucho with his lady Ching Escaler, Margie Ansaldo Tambunting and husband Ambassador Jesus "Chuching" Tambunting, Cesar Gabaldon, Ambassador Tonet Lagdameo and wife, world-class ballroom dancer Linda Florendo L.

FCCP Bazaar Committee: (seated) co-chairperson Tess Castro, president Melli Ablaza, chairs Beth Cristobal and Mabel Abaño, and member Lulu Castañeda; (standing) members Baby de Jesus, Carrie Bautista, Nenuca Biardony, Thelma Gana and Boysie Villavicencio

Shimmering silver in a privilege card

ONE PHILIPPINE SILVER Corporation, makers of Filigrenasia and Gaeacrafts, has launched the Silveredge Card.

The company, owned by Frank and Angelina Claver, has been in the business of producing silver jewelry and fashion accessories for more than 14 years now.

Marketing officer Lira Maranan said the company's products were all handcrafted and made of pure 92.5-percent sterling silver, the standard for silver items. Crafted by Filipino silversmiths in Baguio City, its designs are adapted to suit the tastes of Filipino men and women of all ages and from all walks of life.

Products include rings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, fashion accessories, and gift items for special occasions. The company also accepts made-to-order pieces.

Filigrenasia and Gaeacrafts branches are located at SM Malls and leading department stores nationwide.

FILA
NESTEA

Wilma Doesnt
I have a very busy schedule but I still [illegible] make it a point to exercise. I do Tae-Bo every day. I don't have the luxury of time to go to the gym so I do this at home by following a tape that has a daily eight-minute workout. I also try to drink lots of water. I eat vegetables.

Staying fit the supermodel way

From page D1

Nestl
Good Food, Good

Marilen Faustino
The proper diet is vital in staying healthy. It's best to avoid or minimize the intake of sweets, refined sugar, white rice and flour. Also, don't smoke and don't drink too much.

I go to the gym at least three times a week for some cardio exercises like spin classes, Tae-Bo or boxing. I also lift light weights to tone my muscles.

Monica Padilla
[illegible] healthy, I take lots of vegetables and drink milk twice a day. I also do a lot of walking. If the gym bores you, try a different form of exercise like belly-dancing, rock-climbing or Pilates.

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Actual Photo of Country Daphne House Model
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Sports fashion gets boost from Weena Lim

By Felicidad Galang-Pereña
Contributor

BADMINTON great Weena Lim

THE PHENOMENAL RESURGENCE OF interest in badminton in the Philippines recently brought two icons of the sports world together: Weena Lim, the only Filipino badminton Olympian, and Sportshouse, retailer of top-of-the line sports gear and equipment.

The two have cooperated in a number of events to boost sports.

First is the Sportshouse Corporate and Celebrity Cup, now on its third year. This was organized by Weena Lim's Team Power Play, an events management company. Sponsored by Dunlop-Carlton, the prestigious collaboration attracted 20 top firms and numerous personalities in its 2005 edition.

Second is the outdoor ad for Sportshouse with Weena Lim as main endorser. This was unveiled during the awarding of the 3rd Corporate and Celebrity Cup.

The billboards, now seen along Edsa, features other sports such as basketball, volleyball and tennis.

Lim had served in the Philippine Sports Commission when she was only 30, the youngest ever commissioner. Her idealism made her a Sisyphus, forever toiling and pushing the proverbial rock up the summit.

When she ended her term, she focused on badminton coaching and putting together tournaments even at the malls. She hopes that by making the commercial leagues successful, the country's badminton players could make a living while staying devoted to the sport.

Later, the Department of Trade and Industry Philippine Retailers Association proclaimed Sportshouse Retailer of the Year, just when Weena Lim became the first Filipino Olympian in badminton.

Even Lim found it mind-boggling that she qualified for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia. "It's the one moment you won't exchange for anything in the world," she said of the experience.

Sportshouse, which has some 30 outlets nationwide, is at the forefront of sports development in the country, true to its corporate vision that follows the Greek ideal of "sound mind in a sound body." It has been supporting tournaments in volleyball, darts and basketball.

It recently staged sports clinics at Market! Market!'s activity center at The Fort in Taguig. Dubbed "Sportstacle," the three-day event had the biggest sports brands on sale. It featured martial-arts demos, and basketball, darts and badminton clinics with sports heroes such as Alvin Patrimonio,. Mark Caguioa and Norman Black.

Sportshouse is cosponsoring the soon-to-be-launched Philippine Advocacy League, a one-of-a-kind tournament featuring 60 teams playing in 60 venues, with amateur players aged 6-60, according to Roy Ordiales, marketing manager.

"Promoting advocacies such as Clean and Green and Gawad Kalinga through sports is project we should all support," he said.

This league is a brainchild of Teamsports, a division of Total Events and Athlete Management (Team), Inc. Sportshouse.

Sporthouse and Weena Lim have promised to promote sports as a national lifestyle. As Sportshouse CEO Mars Chua said, "Sports should not just be a craze, but a lifestyle which turns everybody into a winner."

CASUAL and comfy set from Jollikids Apparel

Jolly kiddie apparel

THE NAME JOLLIbee connotes a dozen and one things—a constantly innovating menu, a warm and homey store atmosphere and, of course, the ubiquitous bee whose infectious smile never fails to spread happiness and cheer.

Now, Jollibee is introducing its latest venture into lifestyle products—the Jollikids brand, starting with the Jollikids Apparel line.

Inspired by kids who have always been its No. 1 customer, Jollibee launches this fun and active apparel line made specifically for young tykes aged 2-12. The Jollikids collection encompasses a variety of quality, comfortable and affordable clothes that are perfect for today's spunky, smart and active lot.

The fashionable line is produced by Kids Like Us, Inc., the exclusive trademark user and distributor of the Jollikids brand. These are now available at the Children's Wear section of select major department stores, such as SM, Robinsons, Landmark and Gaisano.

"Kids love anything with Jollibee," says Inez Reyes, Jollibee vice president for marketing. "We just felt that the best way to connect with them is through kiddie clothes."

The Jollikids apparel line takes a fresh approach on your usual kiddie wear. It consists of three collections that cater to the various moods and personalities of young boys and girls. The Basic line includes classic lines and basic cuts in youthful designs and colors. The Sporty line is all about movement and action, as its form and fabrics give the wearer utmost comfort and freedom. The Fashion line is for youngsters who are hip and stylish in their own little ways.

The grand launch of the Jollikids collection is on Sept. 25 at SM Megamall Atrium Bldg. A. The event will have an exciting lineup of activities, including parlor games, a magic show, fashion show and mascot parade.

Kids and their parents can take part in this event just by presenting proof of purchase of any Jollikids apparel.

PRETTY and preppy kiddie shirt

LAID-BACK and cool ensembles

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Mrs. Ma. Luisa Macabuhay-Garcia
Ulirang Ina Awardee 2003
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mother of Kenneth (9)
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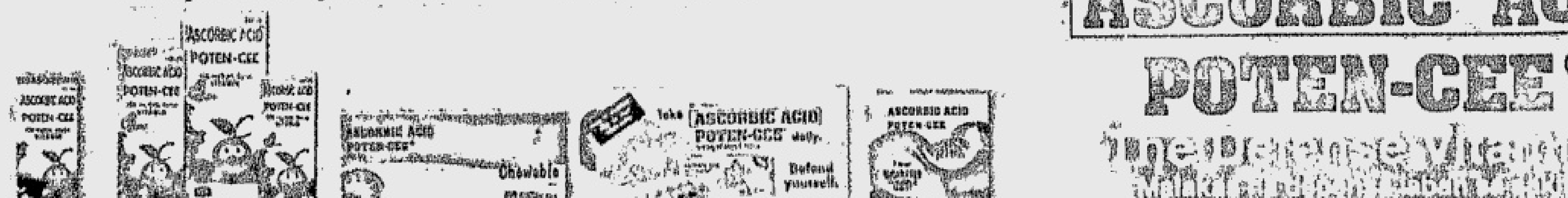

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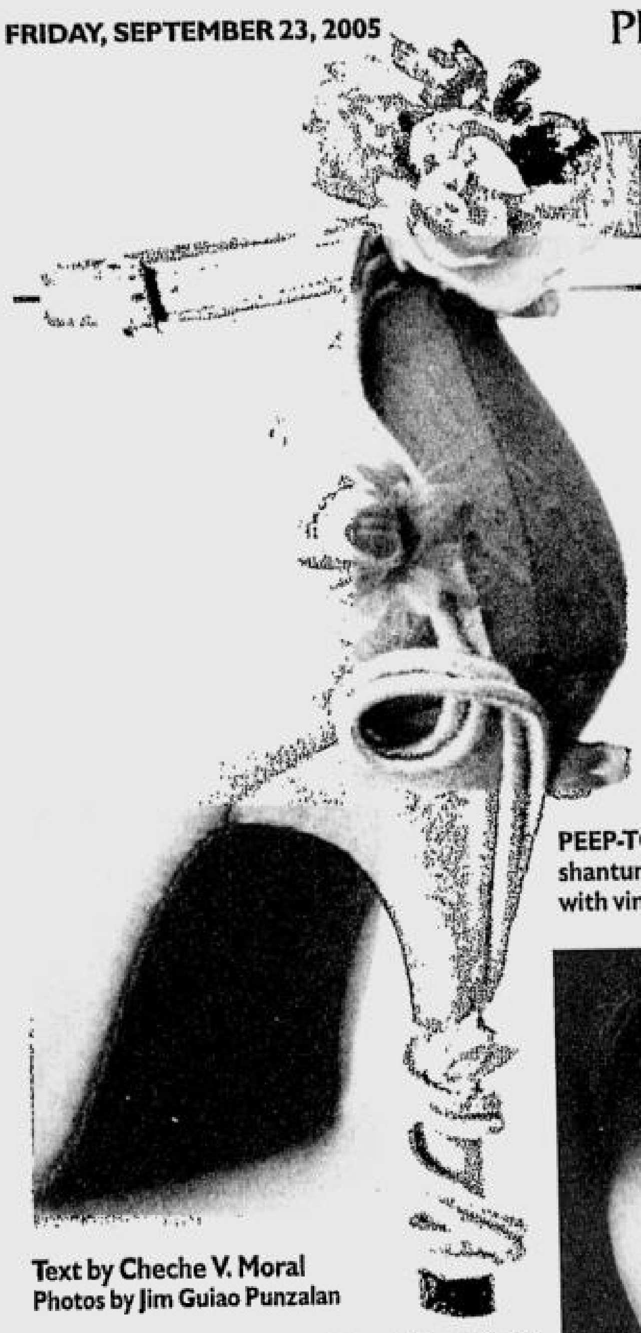

See Gaupo go

PEEP-TOE heels of shantung silk (right) with vine detail (left)

After Shanghai Tang, the designer puts his best foot forward with a line of shoes called John Kenner

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

CESAR GAUPO IS NOT quite trading his sketchpad and shears for a cobbler's bench, but, yes, he's now making shoes!

The prolific fashion designer, who came home early this year—possibly for good—after four years in Hong Kong as chief designer for the high-end fashion house Shanghai Tang, is moving on to new things. Gaupo is preparing to launch his first haute-couture footwear collection.

Don't expect, however, to see Cesar Gaupo-labeled stilettos hitting the shoe racks of department stores anytime soon. First, the footwear doesn't bear the designer's name. Second, being haute couture, it will be available locally only on a made-to-order basis, and through catalogs for foreign buyers.

Conceptualized primarily for the international market, Gaupo's shoes are called John Kenner, after his business partner, shoe manufacturer John Kenner Chua. Manolo Blahnik and Jimmy Choo would probably disagree, but Gaupo felt his name was too exotic for the foreign market that, after going through several options, they decided on Chua's name, which presumably had a more international ring.

True enough, the shoes' heel pads and oversized velvet shoe boxes are embossed in gold lettering simply with "John Kenner," not "John Kenner by Cesar Gaupo" or "Cesar Gaupo for John Kenner." The designs—sexy, elegant, glamorous, inspired—are, however, unmistakable imprints of the designer, worthy of stepping on any red carpet next to Manolos and Louboutins.

SEE/ E2

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GET ACTIVE!
Fasio

PUMPS of patterned fabric with ankle-tie detail (right)

STRAPPY sandals of floral-print fabric and leather

NATURAL and earthy tones with metallic browns will be big next summer. Suede and leather heels

See Gaupo g

From page E1

The swiftness at how John Kenner came to be speaks a lot about the diminutive Gaupo's unbridled enthusiasm to take on new tasks he deems worthy of his passion to create. The proposal was brought to him only in June, soon after his successful bridal show at the Hotel Inter-Continental.

Right timing

"The timing was right, I guess," says an enthusiastic Gaupo, who admits he has been approached for similar projects in the past but they failed to pique him.

"Some [businessmen] are only concerned about how much they will make from the venture and they fail to build the brand first," he says.

Gaupo feels that right marketing is vital for any business. The Philippines is already saturated with mass-produced brands and imports that, he says, to jump on the bandwagon would be a losing venture. He proposed to target the overseas market and a select segment of local buyers "who want glamour, beauty and quality, and who want to be different." His first collection, including bridal, is all-stilettos (3½- to 4½-inch heels), an initial look to build the name on.

"I'm not a good businessman but I'm learning," he says with a chuckle. "Being creative is not just being creative. You have to learn the business side."

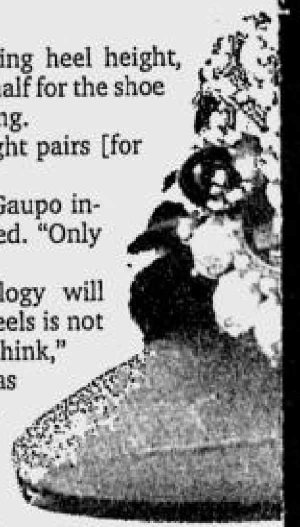
With a local price tag of P10,000-up a pair—a fraction of what one would pay for foreign designer labels—a buyer is purchasing not just a beautiful pair of footwear, says Chua. She's also buying comfort.

Like having a dress made, buying a John Kenner involves a thorough consultation that defines the client's tastes and preferences, fashion- and style-wise; medical conditions, if any; comfort level regarding heel height, etc. It takes a week-and-a-half for the shoe to be ready for the first fitting.

"We're making up to eight pairs [for each design]," Chua says.

"No, that's too much," Gaupo interjects, his brows furrowed. "Only five!"

"John Kenner's technology will prove that wearing high heels is not as harsh as many women think," asserts Chua, a man who has an impressive, almost intimate knowledge of women's footwear.



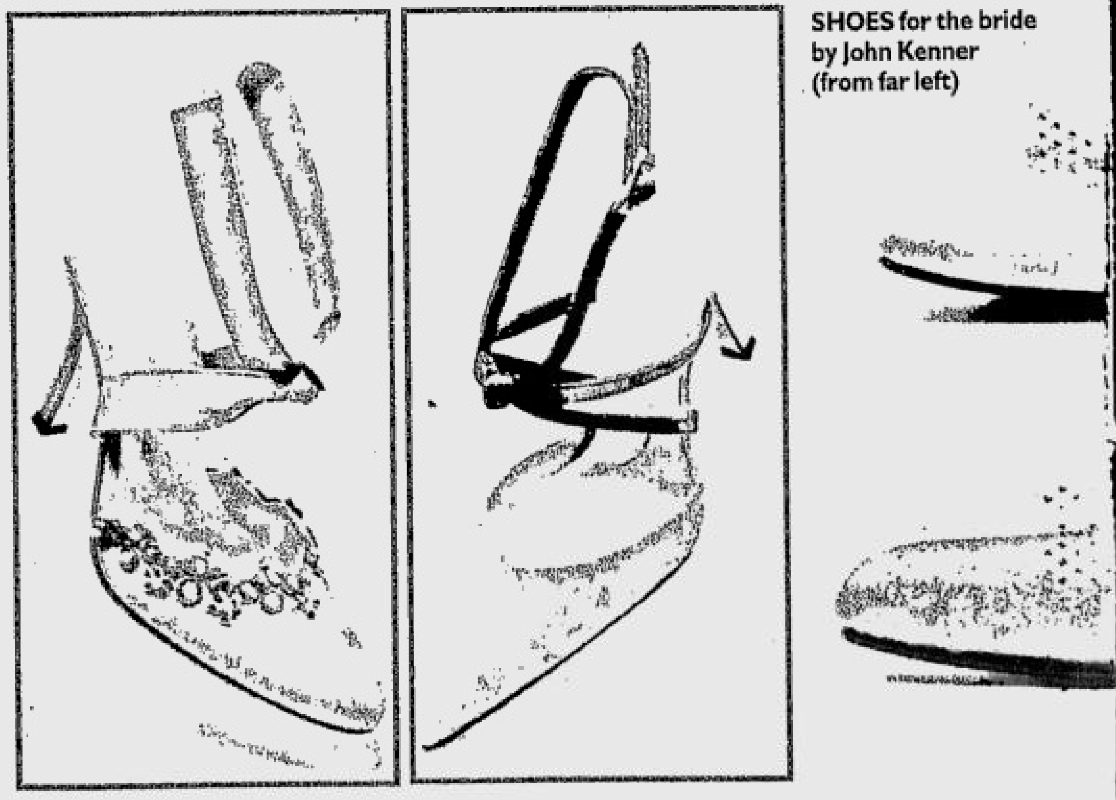
While the shoes are all handmade here, the materials and shoe lasts are all imported and created with German and Italian consultants. Insoles are padded and arches are fitted according to each client's needs.

On view

John Kenner's holiday collection is now available for viewing at its showroom (326 Capt. Henry Javier St., Oranbo, Pasig City; tel. 6723088 or 7265228; telefax 9101383; e-mail info@johnkenner.com). On Sept. 30, the Spring/Summer 2006 collection will be unveiled at the Ayala Museum (images will be available at www.johnkenner.com).

Borrowing elements from couture, Gaupo's 40 pairs for spring make use of a lot of fabrics, some leather, and bead- and stitch-works, appliqués and crystals. Colors include metallic browns, sea green, aqua, and shades of precious stones like topaz and emerald.

"Creativity is always evolving," Gaupo says. "I hate the word 'retire.' I may be getting old but there's no stopping for me." He's still



SHOES for the bride by John Kenner (from far left)

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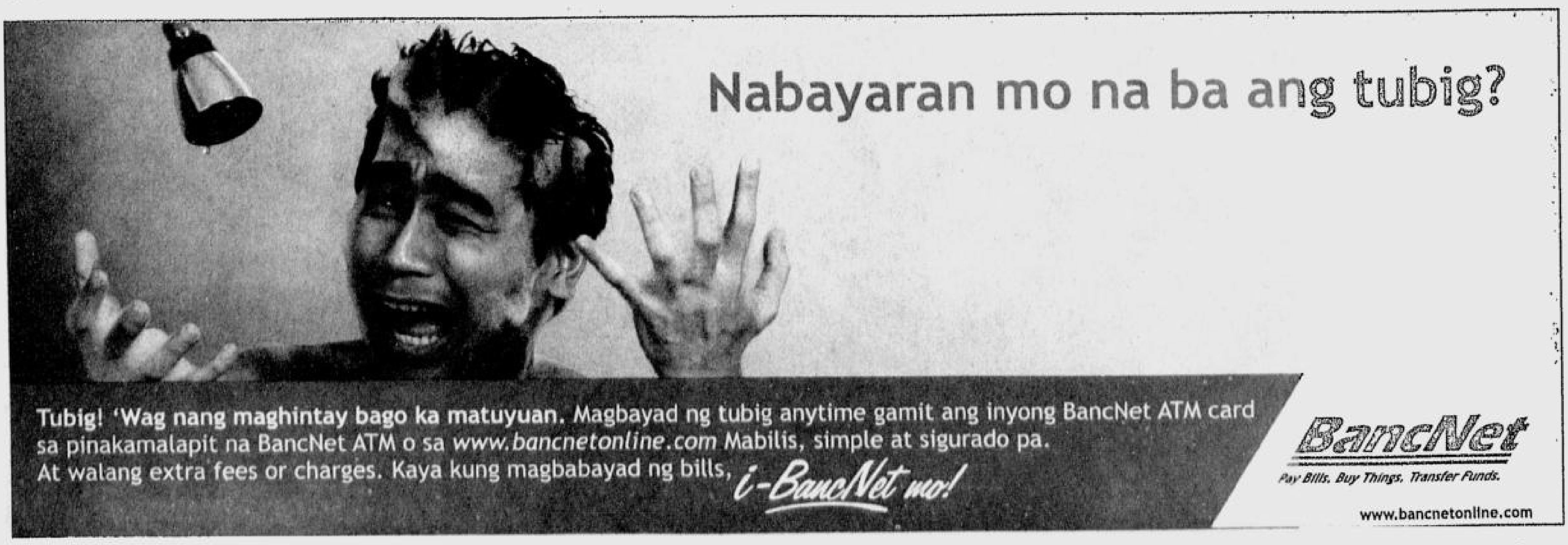

Nabayaran mo na ba ang tubig?

Tubig! 'Wag nang maghintay bago ka matuyuan. Magbayad ng tubig anytime gamit ang inyong BancNet ATM card sa pinakamalapit na BancNet ATM o sa *www.bancnetonline.com* Mabilis, simple at sigurado pa. At walang extra fees or charges. Kaya kung magbabayad ng bills, *i-BancNet mo!*

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JEWELED animal-print sandals

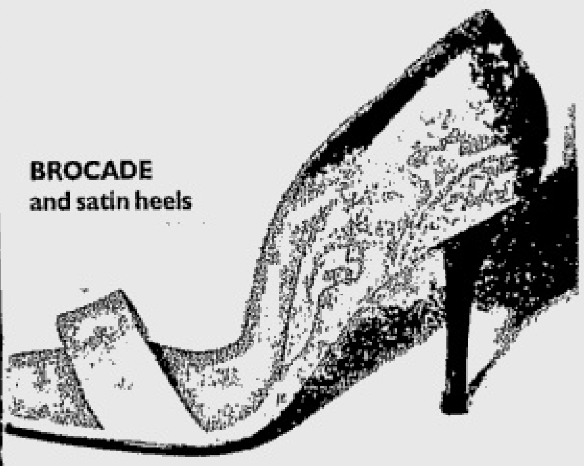
making clothes, of course. And he's still in charge of Shanghai Tang's couture line. "But maybe not for long!" he adds with a laugh, only half-joking. "It's fun to shop [in Hong Kong], but you go home to an empty apartment. I gave myself three years, I stayed for four."

If John Kenner flies, it may just be the beginning of more business projects between Gaupo and Chua. "It will still be about fashion," the designer hints, "but I can't say more."

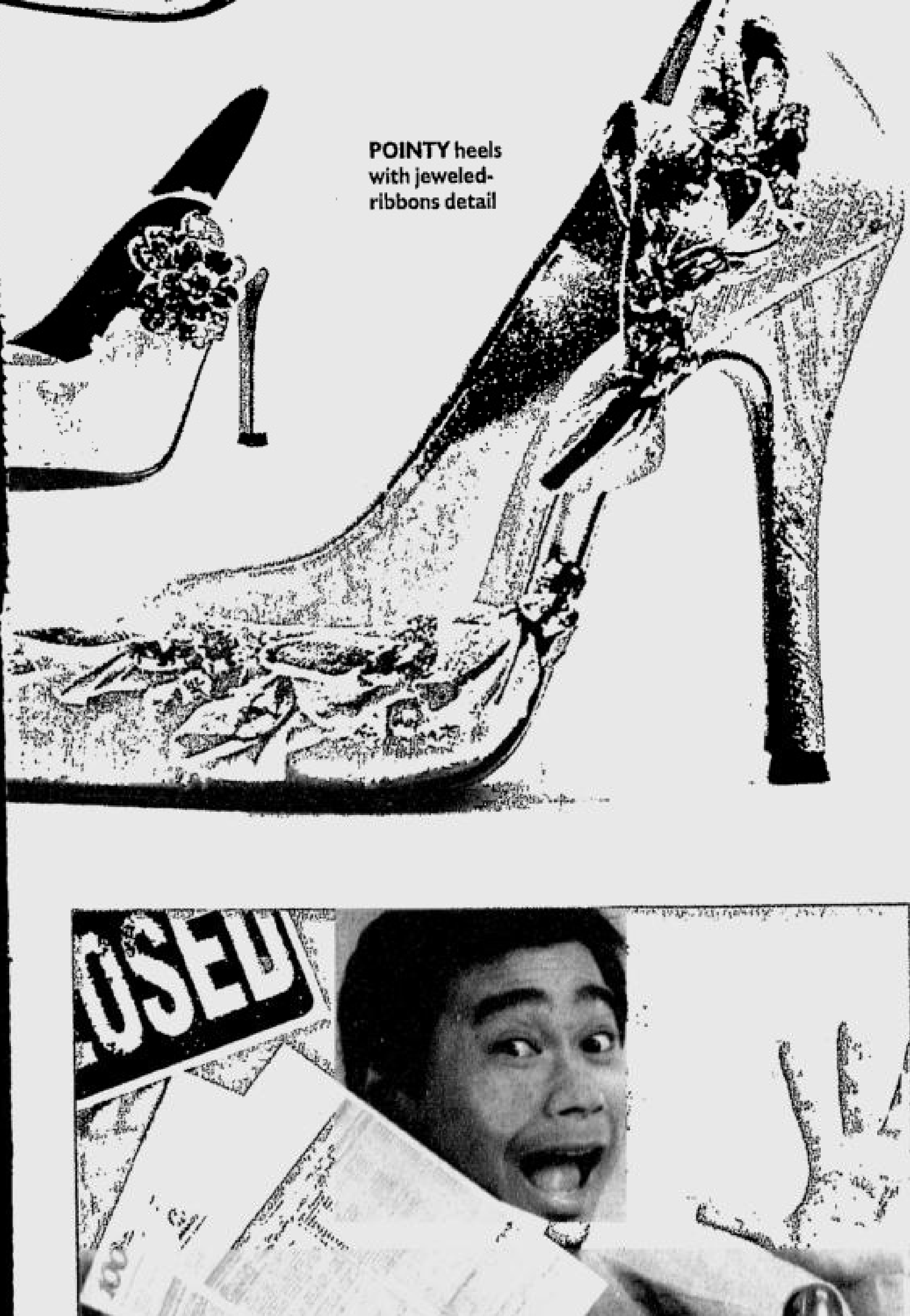
Longtime friends before they went into business, Chua says this of Gaupo: "He doesn't have airs. He's not designing just for the sake of designing. Anything Cesar touches, there must be something good in it."

Any woman who has worn a Gaupo knows that.

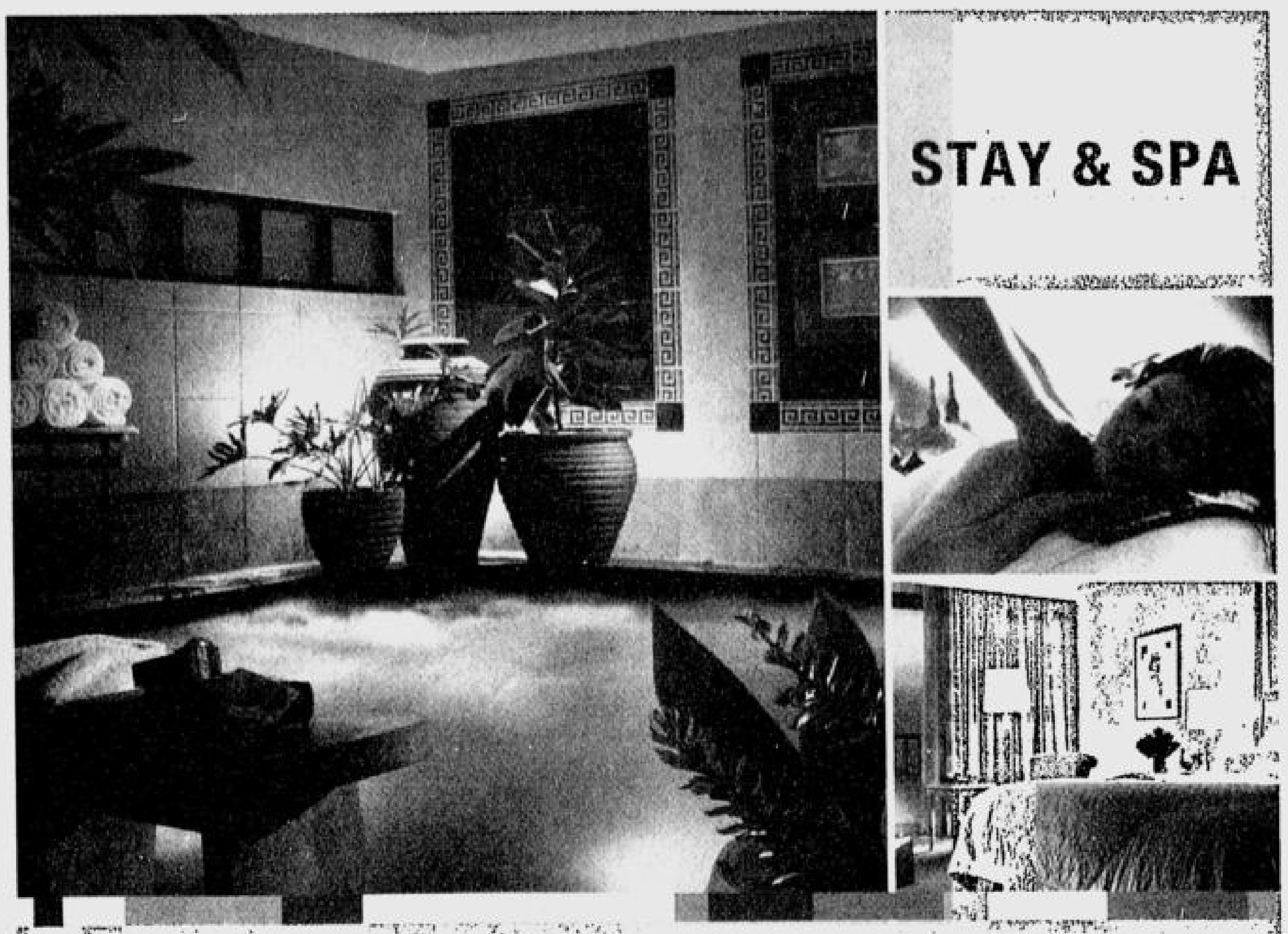
E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph



BROCADE and satin heels



POINTY heels with jeweled-ribbons detail



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New Gardenia TWIGGIES Snack Cake

The cake with the yummy ooze!

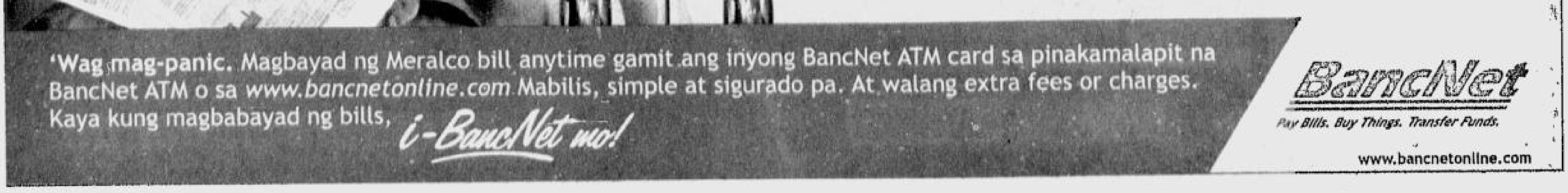
Want something sweet and chocolatey? Get a yummy Gardenia Twiggies!

Discover [illegible] moist chocolate cake goodness oozing with rich chocolate and vanilla cream. Enjoy its [illegible] and sweetness that only [illegible] chocolate cake has. Every bite is simply bursting with chocolatey delight!

[illegible]

Get into the Twiggies craze now!

Oozing with yummy goodness!



Dali! Aabot ka pa sa due date!

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TWIN gore oxford in soft calfskin with innovative rubber sole and Nike Air Technology, fully leather-lined

MODERN welt oxford in luxurious English calfskin on a hand-stained and polished leather sole

RUSTIC slip-on in smooth calf-skin, tumbled goatskin, grain leather. Python-embossed leather soft-hair calf

Classic colors, luxe leather

COLE HAAN'S FALL COLlection 2005 once again celebrates the art of fine craftsmanship, combining timeless designs with modern twists and innovative technology.

Its new handbag collection showcases the union of practicality and chic. Scout through the season's best totes, satchels and the ever-reliable hobos.

The shoes, both for men and women, offer individuality and style. Mules and slides, wedges, slip-ons and pumps, even oxfords for women—all come with a promise to make dressing up this season a fun experience.

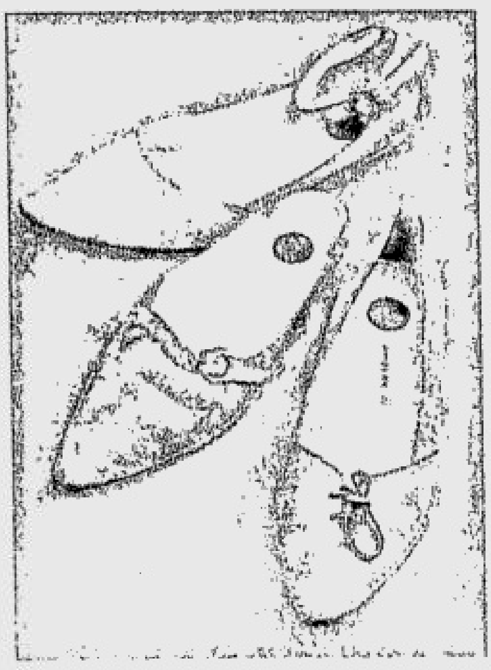
Boots, loafers, slip-ons and oxfords for men have the added Nike Air Technology to it.

Cole Haan's high-quality contemporary classics are manufactured by leading artisans globally and marketed in the finest retail stores in the world. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Nike, Inc., Cole Haan has its international headquarters in Yarmouth, Maine, and its design headquarters in New York City.

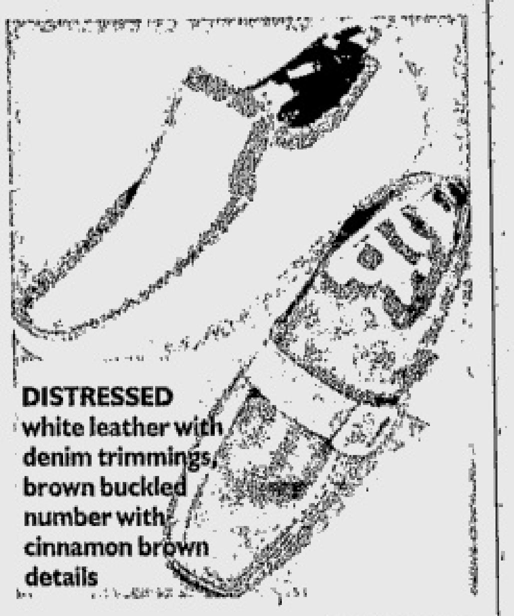
Here in the Philippines, Cole Haan shoes and bags are available at its boutiques in Rockwell and Glorietta 4.

TAPERED ballerina shoes with Nike Air Technology in rich suede, calfskin, patent leather or chevron print hair, paired with black all-purpose leather tote bag

TANGO sandal in suede or tweed with crystal and metal jewel detail paired with pocket satchel in soft pebble grain leather



POINTER sisters in distressed palette of pastels with flowerette buckle and ribbon detail



DISTRESSED white leather with denim trimmings, brown buckled number with cinnamon brown details

THONGS TO DO—crisscross black leather, one-finger slip-on and bare-skin sling-back

Spring colors in new shoe collection

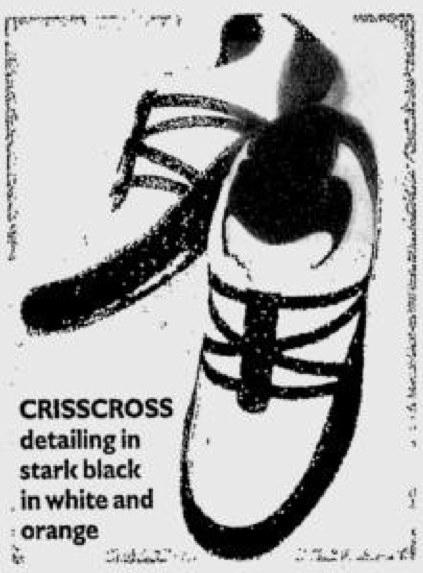
FRENCH BRAND KICKERS PRESENTS A new shoe collection in vibrant reds, oranges and yellows.

An interplay of dainty strips makes a tapestry of rainbow on the feet. Styles include a tutu-styled pair, a dominatrix-inspired brown leather and stud, and soft leather strap slippers with a little Miss Daisy leatherette accent.

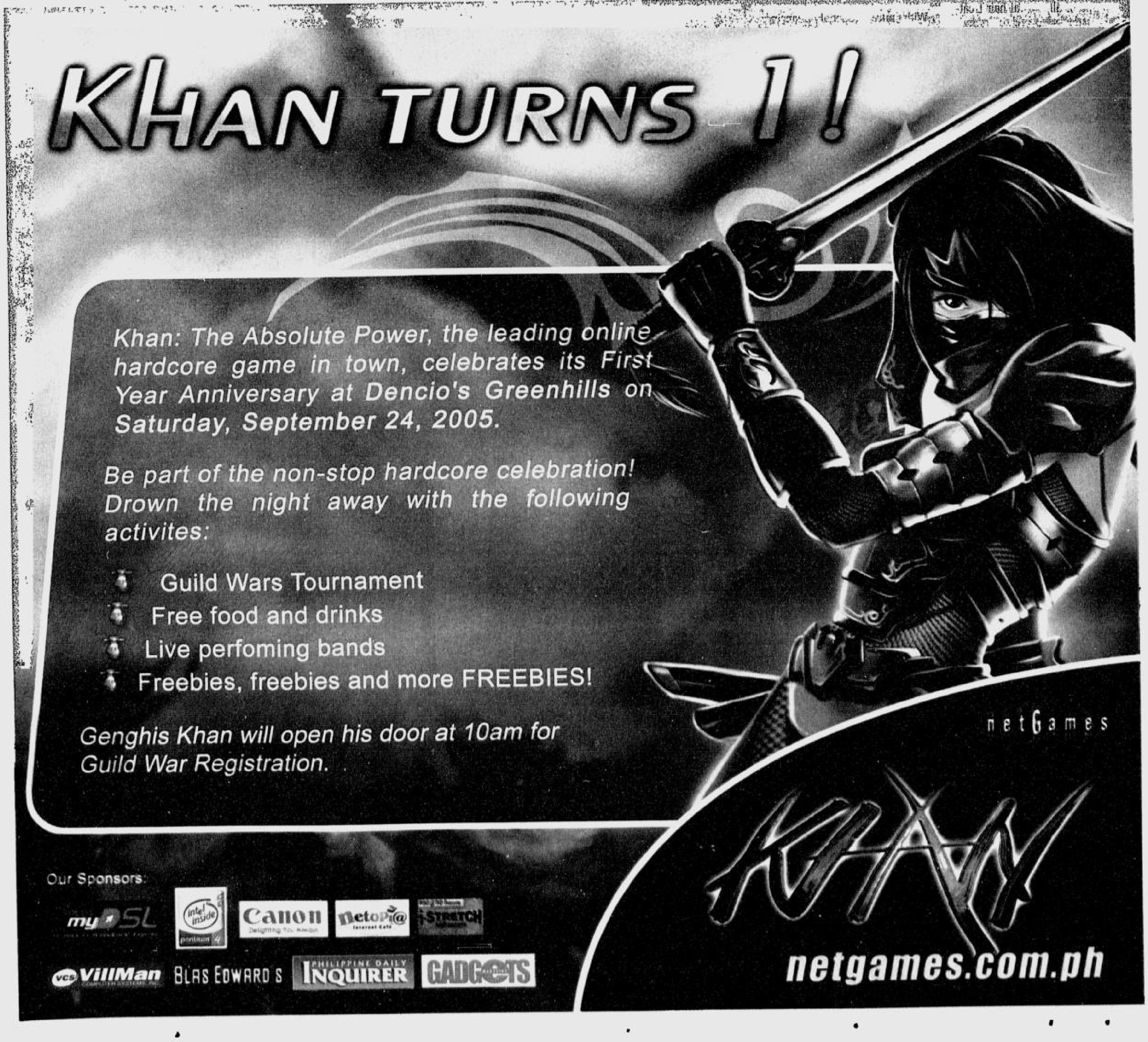
Other styles: a buckled, slim-soled, washed-up misty blue pair; a vibrant red strappy pair with art-deco toe pendant; a comfy black strap number; and a sling-back in a splash of colors.

Also: a lightweight rubber number, an old rose buckled pair, and a corded black pair in distressed leather.

Kickers boutiques are located in leading malls, department stores and specialty shops.



CRISSCROSS detailing in stark black in white and orange



KHAN TURNS 1!

Khan: The Absolute Power, the leading online hardcore game in town, celebrates its First Year Anniversary at Dencio's Greenhills on Saturday, September 24, 2005.

Be part of the non-stop hardcore celebration! Drown the night away with the following activites:

- Guild Wars Tournament
- Free food and drinks
- Live perfoming bands
- Freebies, freebies and more FREEBIES!

Genghis Khan will open his door at 10am for Guild War Registration.

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

FOR WOMEN like Apples Aberin-Sadhwani who enjoy having their hair fixed, the NaturalTech Nourishing line is heaven-sent.

Fuss-free hair care for busy women

EVERY WOMAN ON-THE-go has a simple wish: to find a hair-care regimen that would give the best results to her crowning glory, but without the mess and the fuss of ordinary hair treatments. Davines, with the help of the creative group of the Emphasis hair salon, answers that wish.

Davines, the well-known Italian brand of hair color treatments and styling products sold in over 55 countries, introduces Naturaltech, which has five ranges to cater to different women's needs: Well-Being, Purifying, Nourishing, Energizing and Rebalancing.

Buyer and designer Katrina Tantoco puts balance to her busy life by getting away from the city. "I prefer the rustic way of life," she says. "I'm comfortable being with nature."

A beach aficionado who enjoys wakeboarding, Katrina knows how much damage the elements may cause the hair. "It's important to use a leave-on conditioner that has SPF so that my hair won't get dried out," she said. "Other than that, I have a low-maintenance hair regimen."

The Davines Naturaltech Well-Being line may be perfect for Katrina. A line of all-natural hair treatments made for normal to dry hair using yoghurt as its main ingredient, it is the perfect solution for women who prefer hair-care that is easy and effective but natural.

Restaurateur Geni Psinakis manages the pressure caused by running the well-known Mati restaurant by exercising or taking a dip in the pool. "If I can take a half-hour of exercise or Pilates just so I won't think about work, that helps me focus."

PURIFYING ANTI-DANDRUFF GEL
naturaltech
davines

THE PURIFYING line cleanses the scalp and rids it of residual build-up.

For Geni, the Davines Naturaltech Purifying line does the trick. "We're already bombarded everyday with chemicals," Geni said. "That is why when there's a product that helps you cleanse yourself from all the bad stuff, then that's good."

With pure essential cleansing oils, the Davines Purifying line cleanses the scalp and rids it of residue build-up, giving it a much-needed break from damaging and drying chemicals.

Looking after her needs

"There's a certain age in life when you realize that you have to do things for yourself," Sigalit Djemal said. "I think I have reached that point, that's why I look after my needs."

Indeed, this vivacious and sporty mother never forgets to enjoy life by spending time with her family, going to the gym, reading and listening to music. "Every woman must know that she has to look after herself. She has to nourish herself, too."

No less than Davines will do for nourishing Sigalit's naturally wavy locks. She has, in fact, been using Davines for seven years now. The Davines Naturaltech Nourishing hair line takes care of her dry and color-treated hair and scalp. It has prominent ingredients such as royal jelly, rice proteins and avocado.

"I have used Davines so long ago because it's really good for my hair and its effects are long-lasting," Sigalit said. "It gives

FUSS-FREE/ F3

ENERGIZING VITAMIN ACTIVIST GEL
ENERGIZING VITAMIN ACTIVIST SHAMPOO
naturaltech
davines

NATURALTECH'S Energizing line

A DAVINES user for seven years now, Sigalit Djemal's locks are pampered with the NaturalTech Nourishing line.

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Legaspi Vill., Makati City
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G/F Greenbelt I
Ayala Center
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815.2418

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437.7058 / 0917.531.1245

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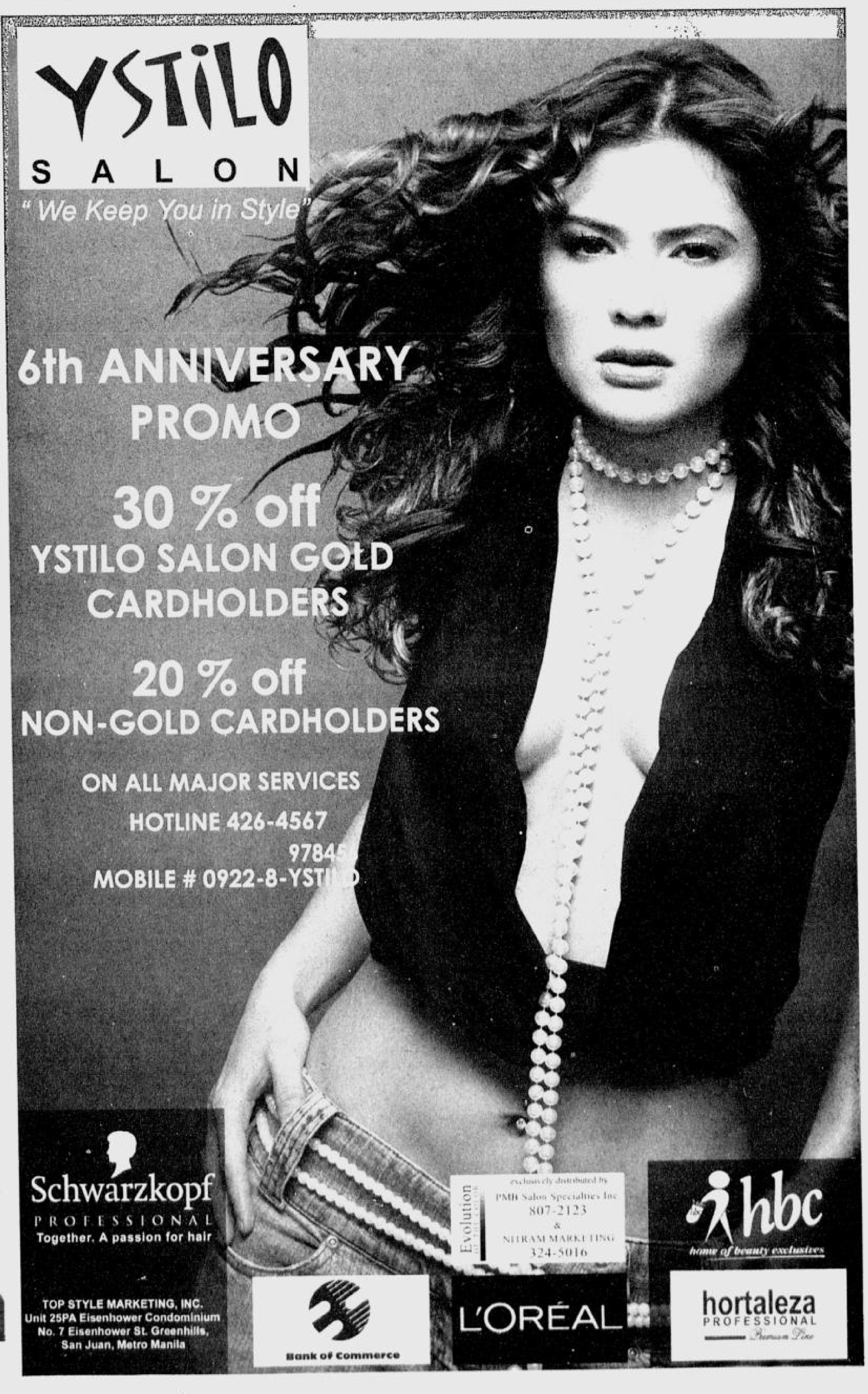
See posters and print ad for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit #5313, series of 2005.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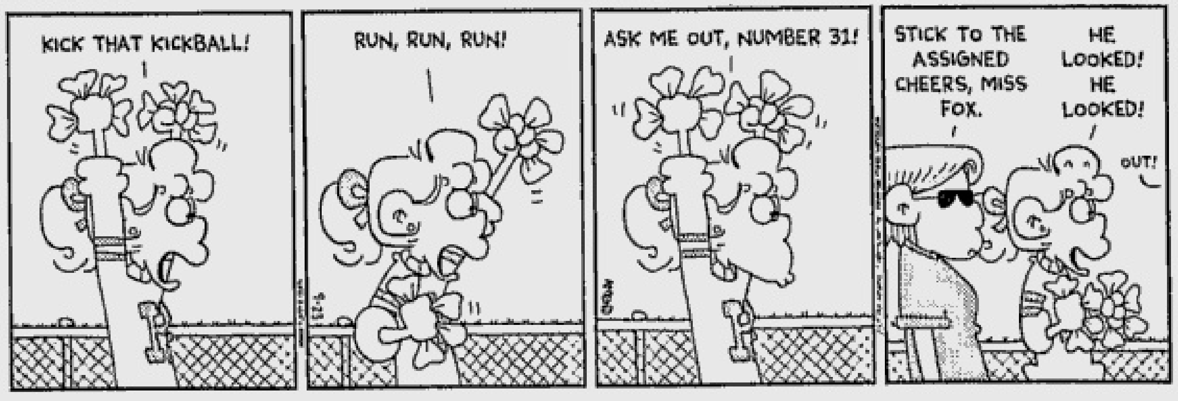
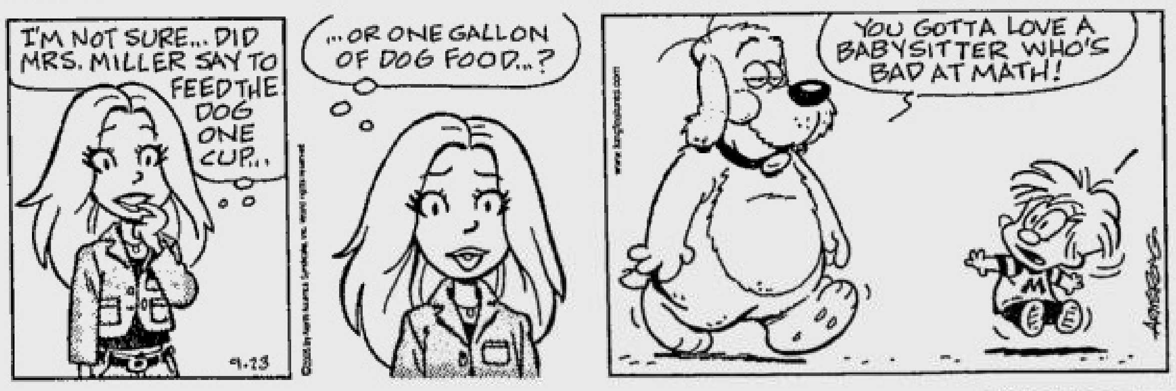
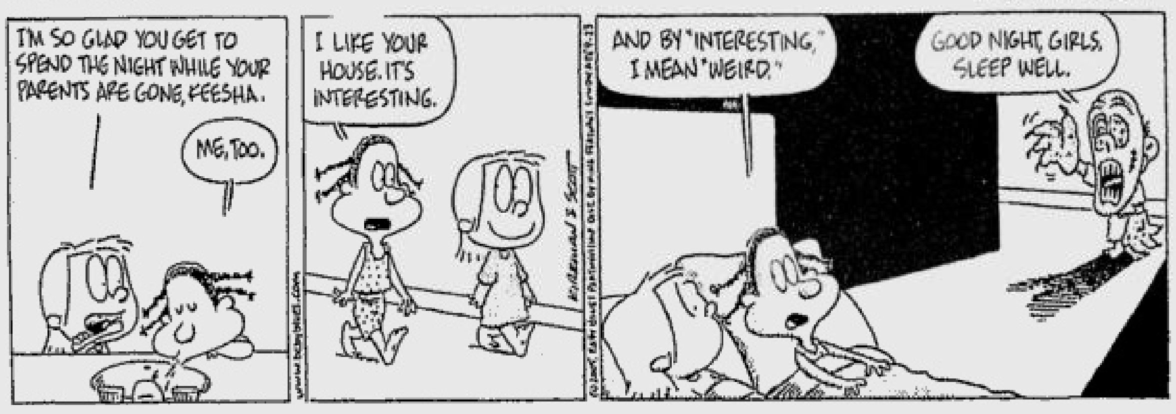
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


KICK THAT KICKBALL!
RUN, RUN, RUN!
ASK ME OUT, NUMBER 31!
STICK TO THE ASSIGNED CHEERS, MISS FOX.
HE LOOKED! HE LOOKED!
OUT!

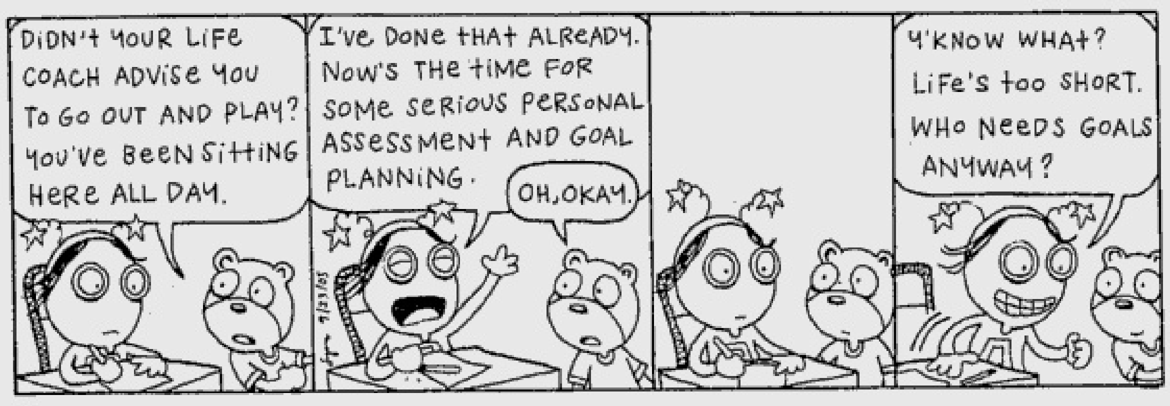
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M NOT SURE... DID MRS. MILLER SAY TO FEED THE DOG ONE CUP...
...OR ONE GALLON OF DOG FOOD...?
YOU GOTTA LOVE A BABYSITTER WHO'S BAD AT MATH!
9-23

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M SO GLAD YOU GET TO SPEND THE NIGHT WHILE YOUR PARENTS ARE GONE, KEESHA.
ME, TOO.
I LIKE YOUR HOUSE. IT'S INTERESTING.
AND BY "INTERESTING," I MEAN "WEIRD."
GOOD NIGHT, GIRLS. SLEEP WELL.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DIDN'T YOUR LIFE COACH ADVISE YOU TO GO OUT AND PLAY? YOU'VE BEEN SITTING HERE ALL DAY.
I'VE DONE THAT ALREADY. NOW'S THE TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT AND GOAL PLANNING.
OH, OKAY.
Y'KNOW WHAT? LIFE'S TOO SHORT. WHO NEEDS GOALS ANYWAY?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a great love of detail. You also have a strong respect for truth. Because of this, others respect you and value your opinion. You will study any problem until you solve it. (And you have a fine mind to do so.) You will have to make an important choice this year. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Bruce Springsteen, singer; Julio Iglesias, singer; Ray Charles, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have a strong desire to spend money now. Today you're torn between trying to be practical versus wanting to indulge a guilty pleasure. (Not an easy place to be.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your energy is very strong now, with Mars in your sign. You're not afraid to stand up for your rights. You're not afraid to defend yourself when attacked. Yo!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The Moon is in your sign today. This happens for two and a half days each month. It's a good thing. It means the universe owes you a favor. (Nice.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Tension with a friend might be difficult to deal with now. Your only recourse is to be patient. However, group activities will energize you!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): A female friend might lend a sympathetic ear to what you have to say today. You might be confused about your love life. (Was that a snicker I heard?)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Conversations with bosses, parents, VIPs and important people might take place today. You're quite willing to discuss a wide variety of subjects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Thoughts of travel to distant places intrigue you now. You want to go somewhere different. You want a change. You feel the need to journey and explore new places so that you can broaden your horizons. Good!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's very important to be extra-patient with partners now. Mars is opposite your sign until February. (This is most unusual.) However, it can produce tension in your closest relationships. Have patience.

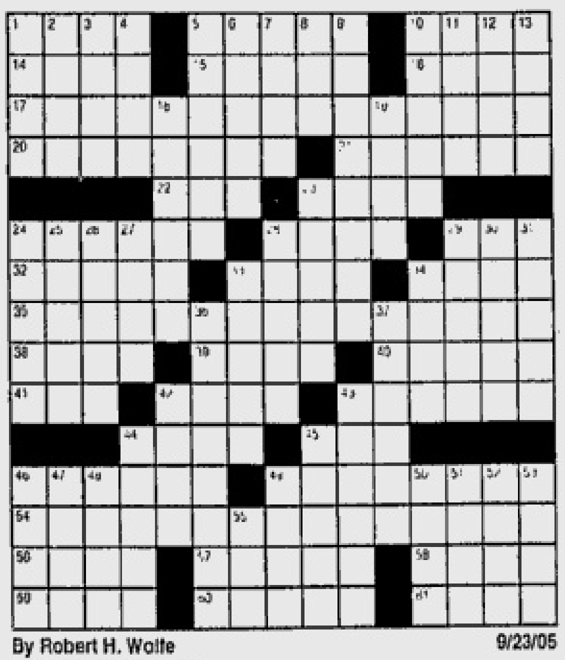
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're energized to work hard. This is a wonderful thing. Just remember, not everyone else has your extra burst of speed. Be patient with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Romance might have a few complications now. You feel quite aggressive, but so does someone else! Remember that it's a dance. You step backward to give someone space to step forward.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Tension at home requires diplomacy and patience. Some of you will now part ways with partners and close friends. You're renegotiating new relationships.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're very energetic now, especially verbally speaking. You might even be reading more than usual. It's important to get out to blow off pent-up steam.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
9/23/05

ACROSS
1 Yankee or Oriole, briefly
5 Starter course
10 Blabbed
14 Faultless
15 Prefix for savings
16 Front of a vessel
17 How to test an herb?
20 Looses
21 Buckeye
22 Moroccan city to some
23 Face part
24 Braved white water
28 Vocalize an ache
29 A mean Amin
32 Plaudits
33 Bani of Iran
34 Arabian port
35 Herb from the distant past?
38 Charged particles
39 Pen points
40 One of the strings
41 Ages and ages
42 Vocalist James
43 Ned or Warren
44 Top cards
45 Prickly husk
46 Actress Donahue
49 Mediterranean island
54 Herb's organic process?
56 Elliptical track
57 Beatles song from "The White Album"
58 Nastase of nets
59 Negative votes
60 Short and sweet
61 NAACP part

DOWN
1 Copies
2 De __ (sumptuously)
3 White lead-in
4 Agents, briefly
5 Scorched
6 Farming plots
7 Togo's capital
8 Singer DiFranco
9 Part of the doctor's creed
10 European country
11 Woody's son
12 Vincent Lopez theme
13 Mistress of Charles II
18 Overrefined
19 Dilute
23 Encrypted messages
24 Knot again
25 Sneeze sound
26 Actor Errol
27 Skye caps
28 African snake
29 Fool
30 Worked at blackjack
31 Dental filling
33 Actor Jimmy
34 Opera showstopper
36 Pause
37 Exaggerate
42 EPA's concern
43 Chatter
44 Blue dyes
45 False gods
46 Black, to Blake
47 Red hot flower
48 Brit's indignant comment
49 Slammer or clink
50 Pelvic bones
51 Guitarist Lofgren
52 Wife/sister of Osiris
53 So be it!
55 Ram's mate

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	S	T	■	D	O	N	O	R	■	R	U	H	R
A	S	E	A	■	I	N	A	N	E	■	E	S	T	H
T	H	E	C	A	R	T	H	A	T	H	I	T	M	E
R	E	M	E	L	T	■	A	I	R	E	D	A	L	E
I	N	S	T	E	P	S	■	R	A	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	S	O	I	H	■	P	H	A	S	E	S
S	T	A	H	■	O	T	I	S	■	A	S	T	I	N
C	A	M	E	F	R	O	M	N	O	W	H	E	R	E
A	L	O	N	E	■	N	E	O	N	■	E	P	E	E
R	E	S	O	R	T	■	S	U	E	T	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	V	I	A	■	T	U	R	N	S	U	P
G	O	S	S	I	P	E	R	■	P	E	O	P	L	E
T	H	E	N	D	I	S	A	P	P	E	A	R	E	D
O	M	N	I	■	N	O	L	I	E	■	H	E	M	A
S	Y	S	T	■	S	P	E	E	D	■	S	E	A	L

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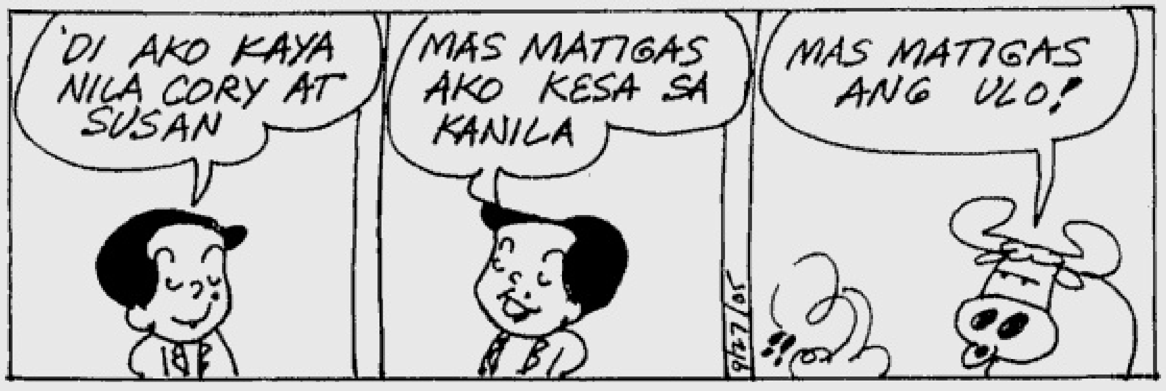
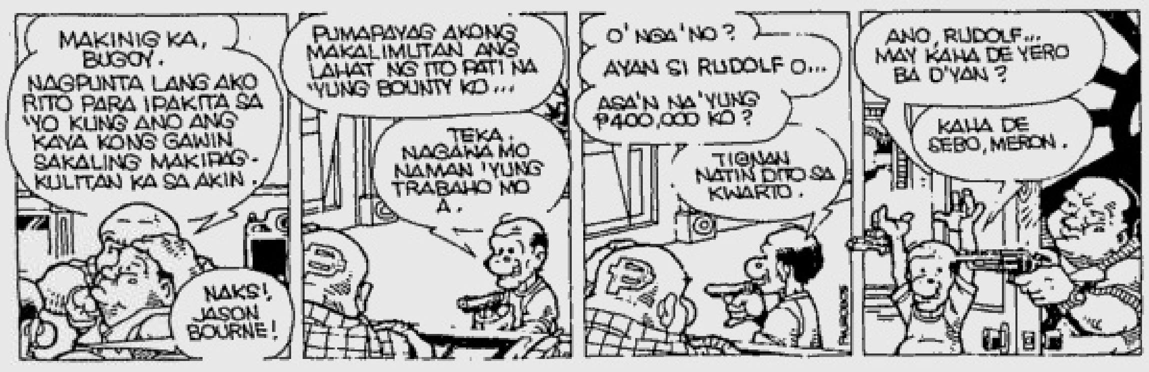
9/23/05

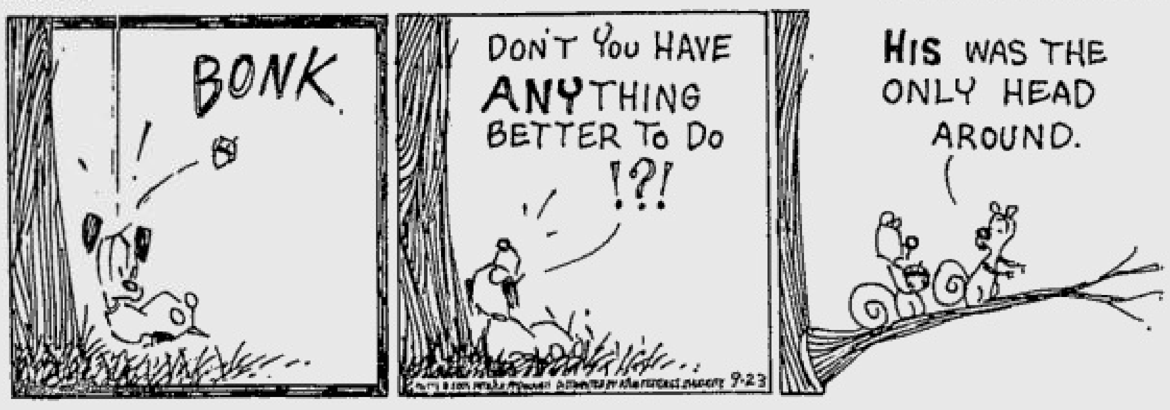
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


'DI AKO KAYA NILA CORY AT SUSAN
MAS MATIGAS AKO KESA SA KANILA
MAS MATIGAS ANG ULO!
9/27/05

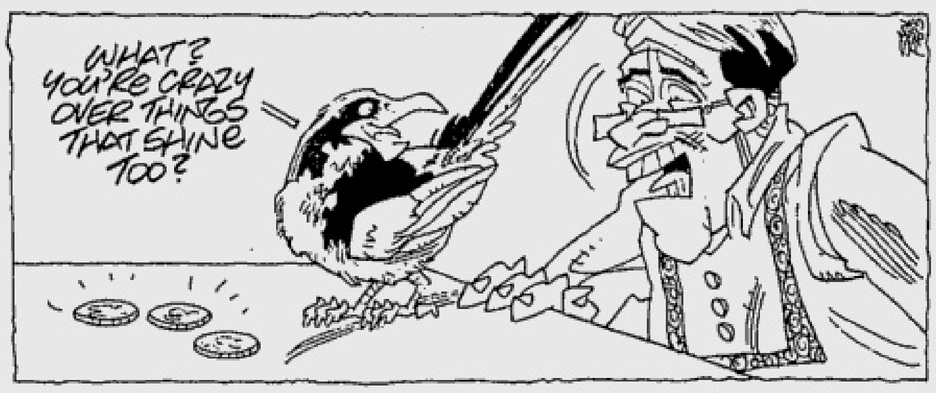
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAKINIG KA, BUGOY. NAGPUNTA LANG AKO RITO PARA IPAKITA SA 'YO KUNG ANO ANG KAYA KONG GAWIN SAKALING MAKIPAG-KULITAN KA SA AKIN.
NAKS!, JASON BOURNE!
PUMAPAYAG AKONG MAKALIMUTAN ANG LAHAT NG ITO PATI NA 'YUNG BOUNTY KO...
TEKA. NAGAWA MO NAMAN 'YUNG TRABAHO MO A.
O' NGA 'NO?
AYAN SI RUDOLF O...
ASA'N NA 'YUNG ₱400,000 KO?
TIGNAN NATIN DITO SA KWARTO.
ANO, RUDOLF... MAY KAHA DE YERO BA D'YAN?
KAHA DE SEBO, MERON.

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

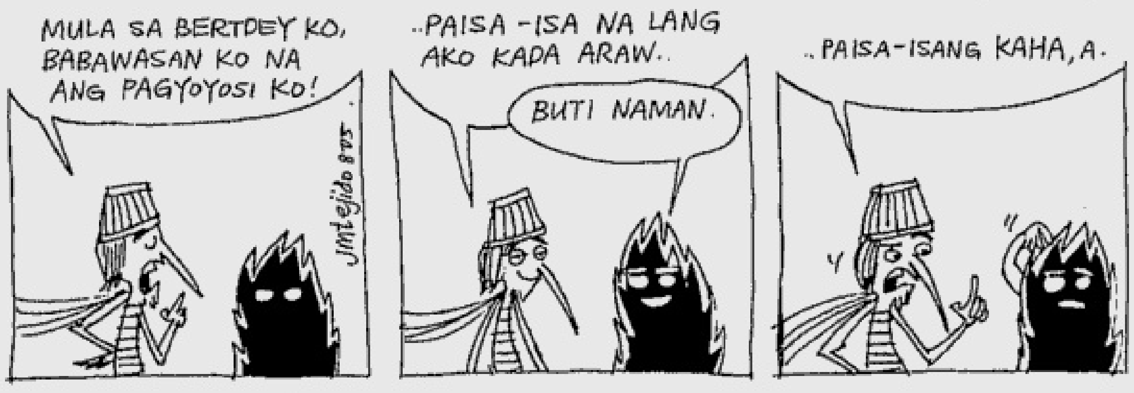

BONK
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO !?!
HIS WAS THE ONLY HEAD AROUND.
9-23

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

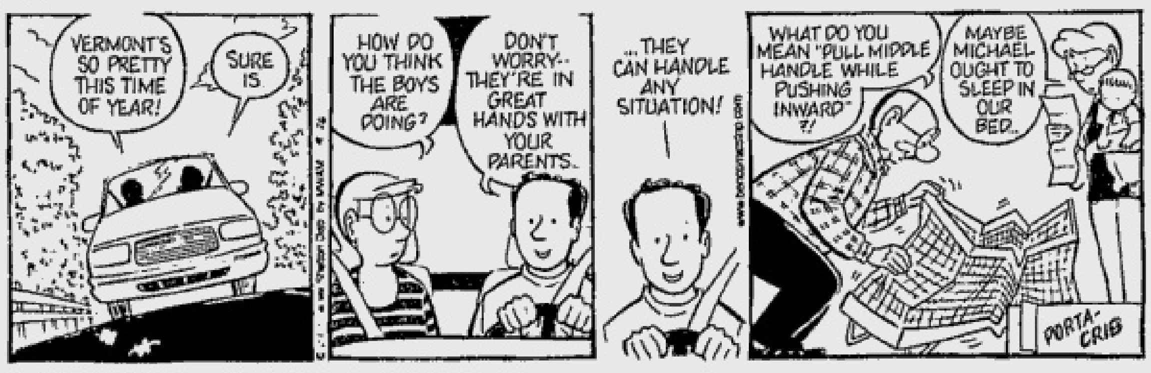

WHAT? YOU'RE CRAZY OVER THINGS THAT SHINE TOO?

THE MAGPIE AND THE CONGRESS-MAN

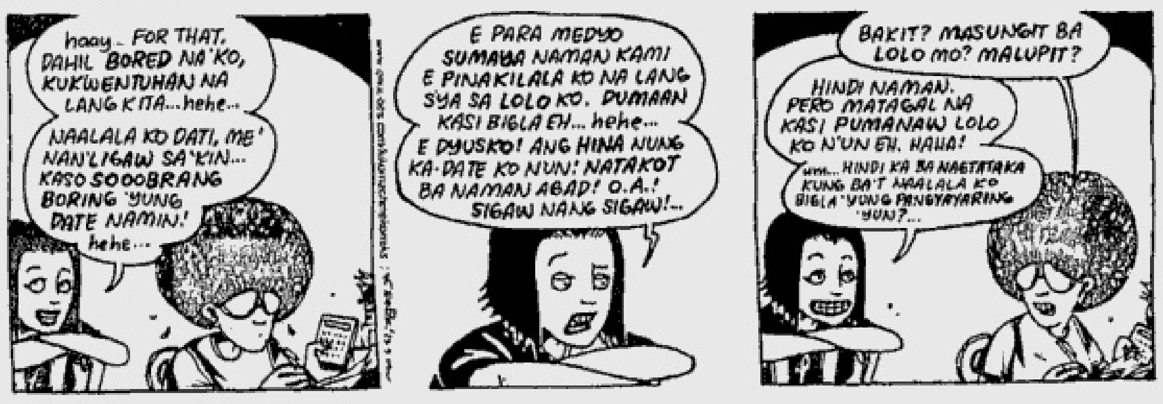
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MULA SA BERTDEY KO, BABAWASAN KO NA ANG PAGYOYOSI KO!
..PAISA-ISA NA LANG AKO KADA ARAW..
BUTI NAMAN.
..PAISA-ISANG KAHA, A.
jmtejido 8.05

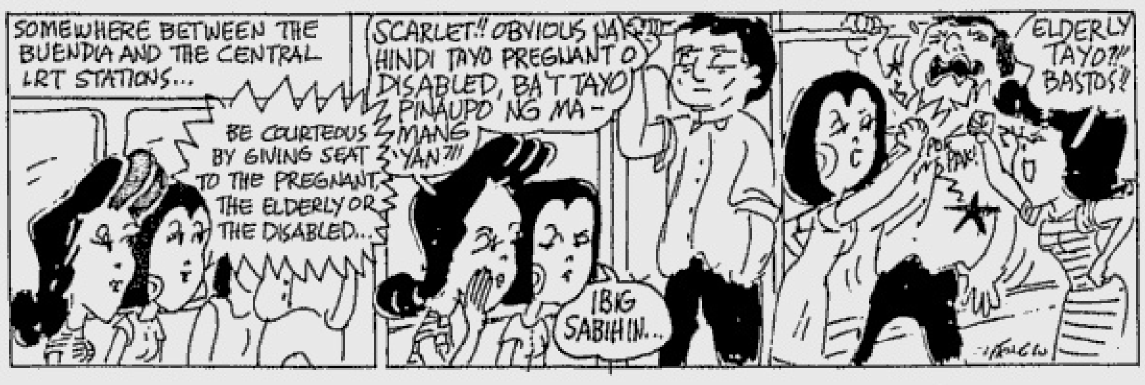
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


VERMONT'S SO PRETTY THIS TIME OF YEAR!
SURE IS.
HOW DO YOU THINK THE BOYS ARE DOING?
DON'T WORRY.. THEY'RE IN GREAT HANDS WITH YOUR PARENTS.
...THEY CAN HANDLE ANY SITUATION!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "PULL MIDDLE HANDLE WHILE PUSHING INWARD" ?!
MAYBE MICHAEL OUGHT TO SLEEP IN OUR BED..
PORTA-CRIB

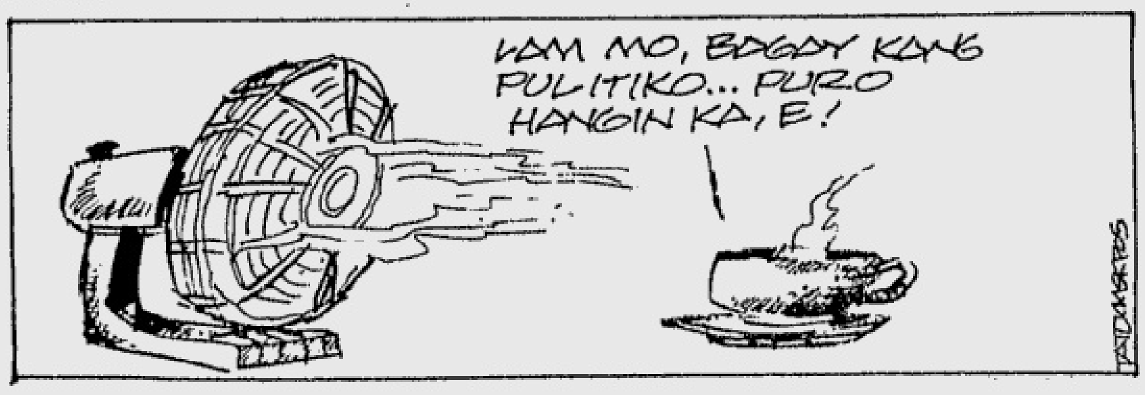
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


haay.. FOR THAT, DAHIL BORED NA 'KO, KUKWENTUHAN NA LANG KITA...hehe...
NAALALA KO DATI, ME' NAN'LIGAW SA 'KIN... KASO SOOOBRANG BORING 'YUNG DATE NAMIN! hehe...
E PARA MEDYO SUMAYA NAMAN KAMI E PINAKILALA KO NA LANG SYA SA LOLO KO. DUMAAN KASI BIGLA EH... hehe...
E DYUSKO! ANG HINA NUNG KA-DATE KO NUN! NATAKOT BA NAMAN AGAD! O.A.! SIGAW NANG SIGAW!..
BAKIT? MASUNGIT BA LOLO MO? MALUPIT?
HINDI NAMAN. PERO MATAGAL NA KASI PUMANAW LOLO KO N'UN EH. HAHA!
um... HINDI KA BA NAGTATAKA KUNG BA'T NAALALA KO BIGLA 'YUNG PANGYAYARING 'YUN?...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE BUENDIA AND THE CENTRAL LRT STATIONS...
BE COURTEOUS BY GIVING SEAT TO THE PREGNANT, THE ELDERLY OR THE DISABLED...
SCARLET!! OBVIOUS NA!!! HINDI TAYO PREGNANT O DISABLED, BA'T TAYO PINAUPO NG MAMANG 'YAN?!!
IBIG SABIHIN...
ELDERLY TAYO?!! BASTOS!!
POK PAK!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ALAM MO, BAGAY KANG PULITIKO... PURO HANGIN KA, E!

Fuss-free hair care . . .

FOR KATRINA Tantoco, the Naturaltech Well Being line provides a fuss-free treat.

GENI Psinakis, Naturaltech Purifying line user

my hair what it really needs, that's why I continue using it."

"My antidote to stress is spending time with my family," said model, columnist and interior design student Apples Aberin-Sadhwani.

Fulfilling so many roles in daily life, she goes for simple routines and a fuss-free life. "Knowing what hair product works for you helps minimize the time you spend on your hair."

For Apples, what works is the Davines Naturaltech Energizing line with pro-vitamin B5 and pure essential oil of eucalyptus that is especially made for permed, relaxed or rebonded hair.

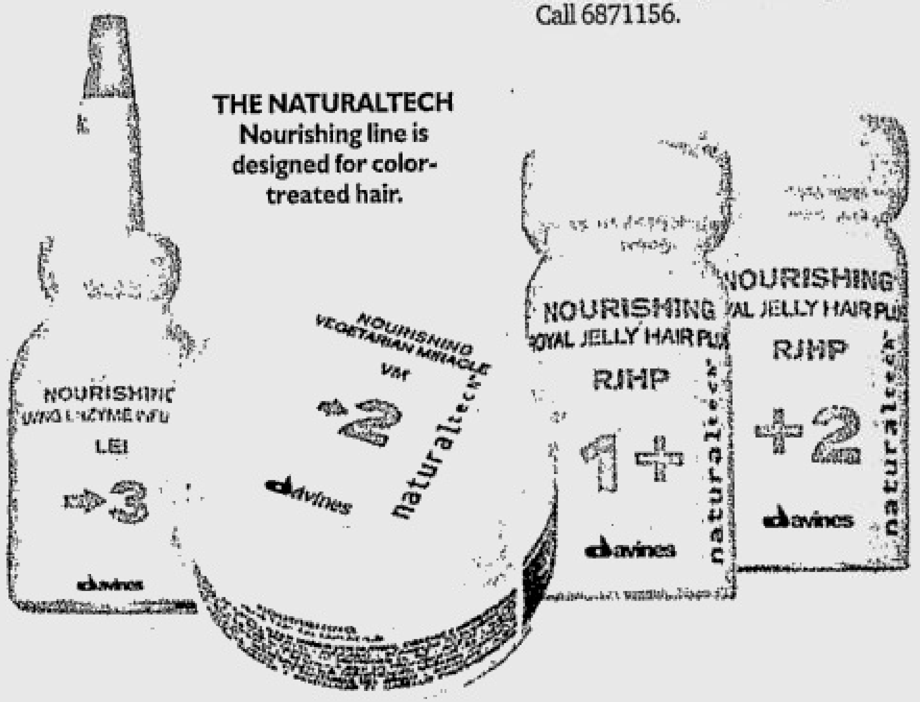
"I express myself through my hair: sometimes I curl it, sometimes I rebond it… using a product that will bring life back to my hair after all the treatments it goes through is really important," Apples said. "It has to work for me."

The Energizing line gives luster and shine to over-treated tresses and give them a healthy boost from the chemicals that ravage and dry it.

According to Emphasis Salon's makeup artist and stylist Jeoff Moran, hair damage can be easily avoided by clean living. "People should get back to basics. Just have the right diet, ample rest and drink enough water to keep yourself healthy, inside and out," he said. "Using all-natural products like Davines Naturaltech hair care and mask color can help us live longer."

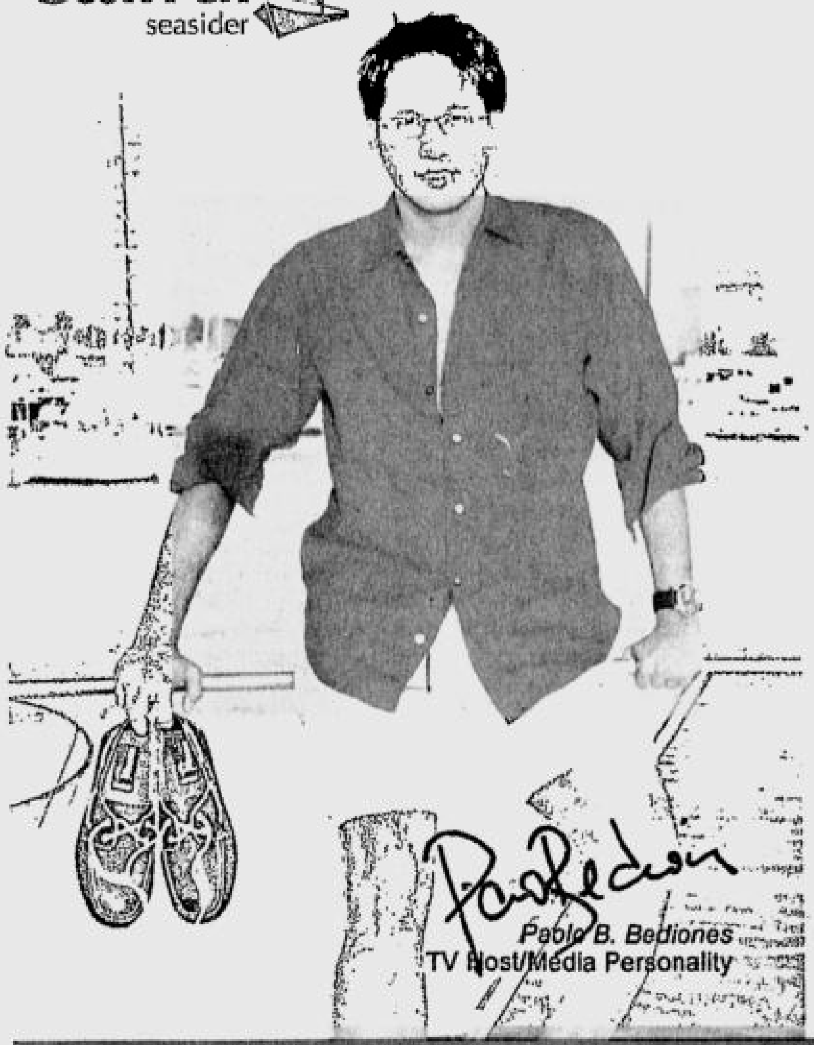
With its serene, home-like environment, Emphasis seeks to give only the best for its clients, and it has found a partner in Davines. "We find the range of the Davines hair colors to be very good," Emphasis's Margie Manzano Olives said. "Their products are also gentle on the hair, what with the natural ingredients they use."

Call 6871156.


NOURISHING
LEI
3
davines
NOURISHING VEGETARIAN MIRACLE
VM
2
naturaltech
davines
NOURISHING ROYAL JELLY HAIR PLUS
RJHP
1+
naturaltech
davines
NOURISHING ROYAL JELLY HAIR PLUS
RJHP
+2
naturaltech
davines

THE NATURALTECH Nourishing line is designed for color-treated hair.

SWATCH seasider



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Limited seats available. First come first serve. Pre-registration is encouraged by September 17, 2005.

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Entrance Donation of P100

Big discounts on beauty products and treatments

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

MY BIGGEST THRILL AS A columnist is discovering big beauty bargains and sharing them with my readers. It must be the "ber" months and the beauty companies know that competition will be in cutthroat mode. Well, whatever is their loss is definitely our gain.

Biggest newsmaker: The Mendez Medical Group is celebrating its eighth anniversary by going 80-percent off on its most popular treatments such as the laser hair removal; the weight loss program, the so-called secret weapon of the stars (whom I cannot name) in trimming down for a role or recovering from post-pregnancy weight; and the rosy peel, a form of microdermabrasion which includes cleaning and masking that leaves your skin smooth, matte and pink on the cheeks.

I had to do a double-take upon seeing the 80 percent. I thought I read wrong at first and then I called the clinic and it assured me there was no catch.

This would be the perfect time to try the three top treatments from any Weigh Less Center or Mendez Face and Body establishments.

By the way, the famous skin whitening tablets are still on buy-one, take-one. Call 3733365 or 8929088 for further inquiries.

Cellulite afflicts 80 percent of women, regardless of weight and age. Therefore a lot of you would love to know that Dr. Vicki Belo is finally sharing her secret medicines for keeping her cellulite at bay. They are called Aferligne and Afina, and they are serums and creams that come in very serious looking vials.

I have seen Dr. Vicki's thighs and, although she is voluptuous rather than scrawny, there is no cellulite at all. It is on buy-one, take-one promo for P3,500. I tried it a long time ago as a gift from Belo and it is by far the fastest working anti-cellulite combination I have tried. It was not available to the public then so I did not see the point in writing about it till now. For inquiries, call 8442939 or e-mail info@belomed.com.

Cellulite solution

Another doctor who has proven his credibility time and time again is Dr. Howard Murad. He now has an anti-cellulite line. This being my constant problem I now own the book, "The Cellulite Solution," which is a gift with purchase if you buy the anti-cellulite cream and the anti-cellulite vitamin supplements.

Murad works on the principle that eliminating cellulite and keeping it off longer should be internal as well as external. The supplements include ingredients that boost circulation and expel the trapped fat so it can be burned as energy during physical activity as well as rev up. one's metabolism so one can burn more.

One side effect though, as with most effective anti-cellulite products, is frequent urination as the body will be expelling the toxins and the boosted circulation burns off the trapped fat.

Murad is exclusively available at Rustan's Essenses.

Clarins

For those of you who are fans of Clarins or who have relatives who are based abroad but are here for a visit, it would be great knowing that Clarins face and body cosmetics is so much cheaper here than in the US or any other Asian country because Rustan's gets the items in advance.

I found out that the price difference compared to the States ranges from P400 up to P1,000 on certain items.

My favorites from the body line: Anti-Eau oil, which gets rid of water retention, and Stubborn Cellulite control body cream, which decreases my dimples and make my pants loose around the waist and thighs.

Fragrance

Eau Tranquility is an aquatic fragrance that soothes and relaxes me. Check out its lip glosses and Wonder Volume mascara in Violet, which is the hottest eye color for Fall 2005.

If red is your favorite color you will fall in love with the compacts, which are an elegant matte velvet red.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

GOOD Vibration, Clarins' look for Fall 2005

The Beach Boys
Now in Manila!
Our media partners:
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etc
sports plus
RJDN
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Pho 1500 / 2500 / 3000
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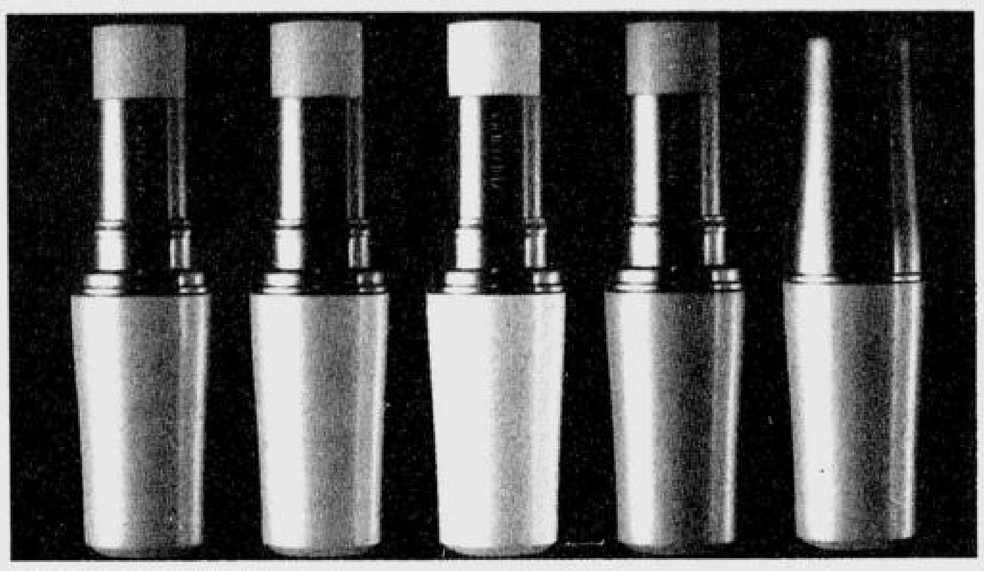
For inquiries please call TICKETNET COMPUTERIZED TICKETING NETWORK 911 - 5555



MAGICAL MAKEUP

Shiseido's Fall 2005 collection is now available at Shiseido outlets in Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Gateway Mall and My Beauty Hub at 6750 Ayala. Tom Pécheux, makeup and color creator for Shiseido The Makeup, calls the Fall 2005 theme "Magical Beauty." The collection centers on Lifting Foundation (P2,298), a moisture-rich cream foundation with a lifting effect that minimizes wrinkles to create a youthful appearance, and Accentuating Color Stick (P2,198; shown above), a smooth creamy stick that gives a natural burst of radiance to skin. Other items are the Perfecting Lipstick (P1,298), which gives lips a plump look and minimizes the appearance of vertical lines, and Accentuating Color eye shadows (P1,798) that protect the skin from dryness.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Friday, September 23, 2005

WOW maling MaLi!
featuring
PINAY Big Sister
ABC
Sabado 9pm
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM.	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision	New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo							
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opkis	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	24			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Asian X-Games Korea				Sentro	Brunei Cup					Big News	Real Stories		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Kusada Kontra Kamen		Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Boarding House		The OC		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Global Family Series		ME TV		Seagames Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Japan Video Topics	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Studio 23								The Batman	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	Pimp My Ride	Rockola	MTV Pop Inc.		Trippin	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	MTV Live	MTV Live	Massive	MTV Play	Diyes		MTV Urban Beats	The Bravery: Live at Kokos	Viva La Bam	Trippin	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Remakes	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Solar Sports				TV Shopping	FIVB World Grand Prix '05								Sports Desk						
Cinemax			King Kong Lives				Dead in the Water			The Ring				Hercules And The Circle Of Fire			Final Destination 2		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Judging Amy		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Mysterious Way		Judging Amy					Wife Swap (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way(11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/ Unlikely Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery				The Most Extreme		American Chopper		The Future Is Wild				Crime Night	
National Geographic		Extraterrestrial				Nomads In Space		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		N.G. Specials/ Megacities Week		Supercroc	Ultimate Crocodile		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	Beyblade V Force Marathon			Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron		All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	E! True Hollywood Story		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate		West Side Story	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		The Collector		Angel		Friends	Karen Sisco
AXN		24		24		Worst Case Scenario		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero				E Buzz	Andromeda (Season IV)		Desperado			
JackTV	Family Guy	Stripperella	The Sib Show	WWE Smackdown				Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		The Mask				Worst Case Scenario	
ETC		Simple Life	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	GBB	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	Dark Horse (2:45PM)				A Very Brady Sequel(4:20PM)		Family Sins (5:45 PM)			Dickie Roberts (7:15PM)				Tomb Raider The Cradle Of Life				Conspiracy Theory (10:55PM)	
Star Movies				Igby Goes Down (3:50PM)			Identity Theft			Con Air (7:05PM)				The Mummy				U Turn (11:05PM)	
Cinema One		The Young At Heart				Alabok sa Ulap				Home Along Da River		Mabuting Kaibigan, Mortal Na Kaaway				Strobel Gestapo Ng Maynila			
EWTN	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Angelus (3:15PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Angel Force	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Theology Of The Body	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15PM)	Miracles Of The Cross	EWTN Bookmark	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.